

THE Hongkong Weekly Press

AND
China Overland Trade Report.

VOL. LXIII.]

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BIRTHS.

On January 6th, at Shanghai, to Mr. and Mrs. C. P. ALLAN, a daughter.
On January 8th, at Shanghai, to Mr. and Mrs. ALLAN S. MALCOLM, a son.
On January 11th, at Shanghai, the wife of N. F. MILLER, of a son.
On January 14th, at Shanghai, to Mr. and Mrs. S. ZIMMERMAN, a daughter.
On 15th January, at 5.30 a.m., at No. 11, Seymour Road, the wife of Mr. A. WEILL, of a son.

MARRIAGE.

On January 6th, at Shanghai, JAMES URQUHART GORDON, to ANNA CATHARINA VOLTNER.

DEATHS.

On 2nd January, at Kinkiang, EDMUND, son of Mr. and Mrs. LEO. J. BARR, aged 6 years.
On 6th January, at the Shanghai General Hospital, MICHAEL KINGSTON, aged 26 years.
On January 6th, at Wuhu, JAMES WILMORE ANDREWS, of the Chinese Imperial Maritime Customs Service.
On January 14th, at Shanghai, JACOB CALLEGANS, aged 51 years.

Hongkong Weekly Press

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ARRIVAL OF MAILS.

The German Mail of 19th December arrived, per the s.s. *Preussen*, on Friday, the 19th inst.; and the French Mail of 22nd December is expected to arrive, per the s.s. *Salazie*, on Tuesday, the 23rd instant.

FAR EASTERN NEWS.

A second plague corpse was found in Queen's Road West on the 13th inst.

The Peking-Hankow (Lu-Han) railway people are about to build a branch line to Anyang in Honan, where there are rich coal mines, in order to facilitate transportation.

The Chinese Government has approved the opening of Whampoa as an open port, says the *Nanfongpao*. Weishien and Choutsun, as well as Chinanfu, were opened on Dec. 15th.

A telegram from Peking says some of the Chinese high authorities are expressing their views against the Chino-Japanese convention, as China has, they allege, lost too many rights and interests.

The Shanghai A.D.C. gave its 140th performance on January 9th, when it presented "The Prisoner of Zenda" with signal success. The large cast received several columns of praise in the local journals.

The villagers of the Hakka village of Chochaw have seized and murdered the magistrate of the San-Sun district. The people of the district are greatly alarmed and large numbers of them have fled to Macao.

German, Dutch, and Japanese troops at Peking are reported to have indulged in New Year brawls outside certain disorderly houses. Fatalities are said to have followed in consequence. Reports are conflicting; but the affair is not believed to be politically significant.

Chong Kit, a coolie, was killed at the Naval Yard on the 11th January. He was engaged hauling a four wheeled loaded truck, and at the entrance to the Naval Yard it ran down an incline and jammed him against a stone pillar, crushing him so severely that he succumbed to his injuries before he could be removed to the hospital.

A budget, it is reported from Peking, is to be issued by the Board of Revenue at the end of this year, or, according to the Chinese, the 32nd year of the reign of His Imperial Majesty Kuang Hsi. The lines of this, the first Financial Budget of China, will be similar to those of Japan, whose methods are being used so extensively by its larger neighbour.

Information reached the Colony privately on January 17 that the foreign residents on the Shameen, Canton, are suffering from "nerves." They fear that an attempt is to be made, before the New Year, to burn them out; and they want guards to be landed from the gunboats in the river. This was a private message; nothing was said of any specially new grievance, and our own correspondent makes no mention of it.

The *Nanfongpao* says that the British Minister has approached the Waiwupu with the offer of financial assistance to the extent of Tls. 4,000,000 for the development of the trade and mineral resources of Manchuria. The British Minister has also urged on China to give evidence of her sovereign rights over Tibet by resuming the Tibetan negotiations and paying off the compensation claimed by Great Britain in connection with the Younghusband Mission.

An Austrian bank is to be opened at Mukden.

The quantity of coal captured by the Japanese during the war was 98,188 tons, of which 86,363 tons were English.

A Chinaman who entered the Supreme Court on 19 Jan. was surprised to find himself summarily ejected before he could take a seat. He was wearing a European cap and had his queue tied round his head, two marks of disrespect which could not fail to escape notice, and the watchful officer lost no time in compelling the unlucky wight to retire until he had acquired better manners.

The *Peking and Tientsin Times* of January 6th says: Obstructive action having been taken by the local authorities at Huaiching in Honan, to the proper working of the coal mines there, the British Minister has required the Waiwupu to give instructions that this must be stopped. The Board of Commerce has decided that in future no extension of time will be allowed in the case of concessions which have not been opened up within the specified time, and the Waiwupu has been requested to notify the Foreign Ministers to this effect.

The disastrous fire on board the *Midway*, laden with kerosene, and telegraphed by our Shanghai correspondent on the 11th inst., is supposed to have been caused by a coolie dropping a lighted match, igniting the gaseous emanations from the oil. The *Tai ping* is over thirty years old, and was formerly the *Deucalion*. She was loading for Vladivostok at the time. The damage is confined to the cargo of kerosene stored in the lower after-hold, all of which was insured, and it is not thought probable that the cargo in the other holds suffered any damage.

On the 17th inst., Messrs. Hughes and Hough, Government auctioneers, offered for sale by public auction Section A of Inland Lot No. 178, which has a superficial measurement of 370 square feet or thereabouts, a frontage to Peel Street of 19 feet 7 inches, and a depth of 45 feet. On the section stands the house and premises known as No. 19, Peel Street. The sale was held by an order of the Supreme Court. There was a large number of intending purchasers present, and bidding opened at \$500, this amount being rapidly increased to \$8,900, at which figure Mr. Mak Kom Yuk, assistant compradore to Messrs. Butterfield and Swire, was the purchaser. Mr. Otto Kong Sing acted as solicitor for the plaintiff.

Mrs. Johanna Edkins, widow of the late Dr. Edkins, has had her title to a certain piece of land confirmed by the Shanghai Supreme Court. It will be remembered that Dr. Edkins left his personal property to the London Mission, and appointed Ernest Box, an official of that Mission, one of the executors. Mr. Box was under the impression that Dr. Edkins had spoken of using this piece of land to build a missionary institution thereon; but it was not mentioned in the will, and numerous witnesses gave evidence that the land was a gift to Mrs. Edkins, and cultivated by her as a garden. The Mission did not oppose her claim to it, but were prepared to abide by the Court's order. The Court ordered the formal transfer of the land to her, with costs out of the estate.

SLAVE TRADE AT HONGKONG.

(Daily Press, 13th January).

That human-beings are daily bought and sold in Hongkong is a startling fact. To some it does not bring any sense of shock, because familiarity with the distressing circumstances have somewhat dulled their susceptibilities, but to others the statement may come as a painful surprise. Though it be difficult to realise that any form of slavery can exist under the British flag, it is nevertheless only too true that there is a fairly extensive trafficking in boys and girls, in addition to the usual buying and selling of wives and concubines in the Chinese community here. Occasionally the police are successful in running some of the delinquents to earth, but those cases are only a slight indication of what is really a large business, conducted with method and apparently with profitable results to those engaged in it.

In Hongkong it is quite an everyday occurrence for a boy or girl to be reported to the police as missing. On the face of them, those reports would suggest little beyond some more or less temporary family loss, but to those with a knowledge of Chinese life and the many peculiar ways that are inexplicable to the Western mind, they speak with eloquence. They reveal the operations of the unholy trade which flourishes by snatching children from their parents and selling them to other Chinese who put them to a variety of uses.

To understand some of the causes underlying this practice, one must remember the exceptional place which a son occupies in the affections of his father. As an ancestor worshipper, he anticipates posthumous attentions from his off-spring, but more material perhaps is the wish to secure that support which all Chinese sons render to their parents or foster parents when overtaken by old age. Or, it may be he regards it as a grossly commercial transaction of buying the boy for a small sum, training him to his trade or occupation and then selling him at a greatly enhanced value which gives him a substantial profit. Even Chinamen with sons of their own buy other boys and adopt them with TALLYARD'S definition of gratitude before them. With regard to girls, the case is somewhat different. As everybody knows, the female portion of society occupy a very inferior position among the Chinese. The girls are purchased with a view to making them servants in native families or keeping them to the age when they can be profitably disposed of as wives or concubines. There is another fate to which many are condemned, and that is too well known to call for any particular reference here.

Bearing these facts in mind, it will be easy to see the commercial possibilities which the natives realise who engage in kidnapping. Of course, the risk is great, at least in Hongkong, but in neighbouring ports the nefarious trade can be conducted in comparative safety. The method is very simple. A man or a woman—both sexes are identified with the practice—by appealing to childish feelings may induce a boy or girl to follow him or her, perhaps to see a procession, as was the inducement mentioned in one case at the Magistracy this week. The child is got on board a steamer and taken to Hongkong. Most children, by the way, are stolen in this way from Pakhoi and Canton. Arrived at Hongkong, the unfortunate child is haroured in some house, and negotiations are opened for his disposal. As usual in most Chinese transactions, the vendor and the prospective purchaser rarely meet. The business is

conducted by intermediaries, and even when the bargain is concluded it frequently happens that the child is passed from one purchaser to another. Sometimes the "go-between" absconds with the purchase money, and the aggrieved party reporting the matter to the police finds that he has made a mistake and is laid by the heels for kidnapping.

As a rule, the children are seldom bought to be kept in Hongkong. The risks of discovery are too great for that. They are usually sold to persons in Siam or Singapore. The boys may be disposed of to contractors, and it is remarkable that they are passed like chattels from one to another without realising that they are being sold. Otherwise it seems difficult to account for youths of eighteen years and upwards not breaking their bonds and asserting themselves as free agents. Even the immigration laws are evaded by those responsible for the sale. A man assumes the slave's name and marches past the immigration officer with the requisite answers to the usual questions. Girls are treated differently. They are sold into establishments either as adopted daughters or as servants, and knowing their economic position it is not surprising that they allow themselves to be bandied about from hand to hand as chattels without protest.

Several people have reduced this iniquitous business to something like a fine art, as is seen in the practice euphemistically described as "flying the white pigeon." A boy or girl is brought down from Canton and sold, say, to people in Hongkong. The necessary formalities are completed, the money is paid, and the boy or girl becomes the property of the purchaser. But he or she only remains a day or two and disappears. With his or her vendors, the same routine is gone through next, it may be in Macao, and after that Canton is perhaps tried. In this way considerable sums can be made by the parties. This practice, it may be as well to add, obtains more in the disposal of girls to houses of ill-fame.

In attempting to suppress this evil the police are confronted with great difficulties. When a case is reported to them, the facts are so distorted and exaggerated that it is difficult to appraise the statements made to them. Many people report the loss of a child to "save face," and when investigations are made it not infrequently happens that the police find the man they want is the one making the report. The stolen children themselves add to the difficulties, because they are schooled to call the parties uncle or father and tell the tales they are ordered to tell, thus protecting the people from whom they should wish to be protected. Then, strange to say, the law affords protection to the purchaser. It acknowledges the proprietary rights of the individual who has bought an adopted son or daughter, or who has acquired an apprentice or servant. The girl bought for the house of ill-fame is, of course, described as a servant or something different to what she is. Thus, though it be perfectly well known that a young person has been stolen, and the party buying him or her makes himself criminally liable if the transaction were in other than flesh and blood, the law cannot touch him, an immunity which is not calculated to further the ends of justice or to enable those engaged in the work of suppression to strike at the root of this crying evil. Certainly, it seems that we have something to do yet before we can square practice with precept. Our authorities are faced with the bounden duty of removing this reproach from our midst and

should bestir themselves by adopting measures which will make the infamous trafficking impossible and secure for each that personal freedom which the protection of Britain usually spells for all.

ETHNOGRAPHIC SPECULATIONS.

(Daily Press, 15th January).

In an article which appeared in the November number of the *Cosmopolitan Review* Mr. DANIEL T. PIERCE asks the question, Did America people the Earth? The question involves many issues, and is by no means so simple as Mr. PIERCE, and with him probably the majority of our geologists and ethnographers, would fain believe. The first question is, of course, is man of single or multiple origin? Can we, for instance, class paleolithic man, intimately connected as he certainly is with the Palearctic and Neoafrican regions, with the Negro peoples, as intimately associated with the Oriental and Ethiopian regions, and both tropical? Or again, can we with any approach to certainty define in what geological age man first became a denizen of our world, and in what form did he first appear? Finally, and the question has a most important bearing on the issue, what was the distribution then of land and ocean: and was there either an America or a Europe to form his first place of residence? Ethnographers, and, we may add, geologists, are apt to leave out of consideration the last question in discussing the origin of human races, yet it is probably the most important of all before laying even the preliminary foundation of an argument on the subject.

We know a little about paleolithic man; that is to say, he was intimately associated with the period when glaciation was much more widely spread in North-Western Europe than it is to-day. We know that from Vancouver's Island to New York during what we call the same geological epoch North America underwent a similar period of cold; but we do not know that the periods were historically contemporaneous. We do not yet know whether man was an eye-witness of any portion of this glacial time in North America. We know absolutely nothing of the contemporary history of the Negro and Negroid races, even throughout historic time, much less in the later geologic ages. We know that paleolithic weapons have been found in the Libyan deserts, and on the eastern frontiers of Egypt, but we are as yet quite ignorant of what race of man made use of them.

Nearly half a century ago LYALL drew attention to the evident association of the different races of men with the great zoological "Provinces;" his successors have unfortunately not followed up the idea. Yet since his day the evidence has been accumulating, that as with the higher mammals, so with the various races of man, they must have been differentiated before Ocean and Continent assumed their present shapes and conditions. The modern geologist has grown namby-pamby, and is afraid to speak of such changes except with bated breath. LYALL was not so squeamish; he speaks of North Wales having since the commencement of its glacial period been elevated and depressed some 2,400 feet: half as much again in the latitude of Iceland would have joined Europe and North America with a wide plain, and the distribution of the main mammalian forms shows that during the Pleistocene they must have been so connected. The geographical distribution of the continents must have been so unlike the pre-

sent that, as with the showman, if asked which was Europe and which was America, we could only reply, "whichever you please. you pay your money, and you take your choice." Even so late it is impossible with our present knowledge to define the probable distribution of the continents. We know that somehow Europe and America were connected, and we know that what was apparently an ocean bisected Asia and Africa, and joined Atlantic and Pacific. This we find, too, accentuated in what ethnographers have absurdly called the "Mongolian" race—the low, swarthy, mostly round-headed, hawk-haired races who range from Lapland to Labrador, and who, in alloys of varying degree of betterness or worseness, still form the foundation layers of our European populations. So our blond races, which some of our ethnographers again would class under a general heading of Aryans, were till a few centuries ago strictly confined to a comparatively narrow strip reaching from the western shores of Europe to Mid-Asia; here again coinciding with a very well marked zoological "Province," which we may, roughly associate with the tiger and his relations. HUXLEY once divided mankind into four races—the "Mongolian," the Australian, the Negro, and the fair—he called them Xanthocroid, but that's no matter. He had a better inkling of the case than many more modern ethnologists, who use harder names. But the fair race must be divided into two; above we have spoken of one; the other has been called many names, "Semitic," "Mediterranean" and a great many more. It was anciently merely "Red," Adamites, Edomites, Idumeans, Homerites, Phoenicians, &c. It stretched from the Pillars of Hercules to the border of Afghanistan, and from Mesopotamia to the highlands of Abyssinia. It curiously also coincided with a zoological "Province," having the lion, the African elephant, and the ostrich for fellow residents. Nowadays these affect South Africa, but that is a thing of yesterday, certainly since man walked the plains of Arabia. HOMER told of these folk; he called them Ethiopians, and he said their leader was a daughter of Eos, the "rosy-fingered" dawn. He certainly never heard Negroes called by the name, which if we analyse it, was only another name for red—that was an absurdity of later date. The only one of the four to be accounted for is the Australian; HUXLEY would have it that it included the older dark races of India. We may leave it an open question with a good number more which we have no space to mention.

Now we have some grounds for fixing the place of origin of the two fair sub-races. One must have been somewhere about Central Asia, the other must as necessarily have been about Arabia. But what of all the others? We certainly have not an atom of evidence, nor even probability, whether derived from myth, tradition, or geology to go on. Myth, tradition and geology all point to the "Fairs" being the last of the lot; all the lands originally occupied by them are geologically new, but whether the new peoples came contemporaneously with the new lands, or occupied them long subsequently we can form no judgment. We have a good deal as evidence that there were already pretty widely spread over the earth "Mongolian" races when the first of the Fairs put in an appearance. *Fortes ante asamemnona*. But we have not a scintilla of light to cast on the rest of the question of origins. Was "Mongol" older than Negro? Were both older or younger than "Australian"? We cannot begin to form even an opinion; to all appearance the

human question is as far off from settlement as ever, even though SAUL in Mr. PIERCE, be amongst the prophets.

EXTRA-TERRITORIALITY IN CHINA.

(Daily Press, 16th January.)

It appears that among the suggestions as to the future policy of China in respect to her foreign relations, which were made by the Chinese Minister in Paris, was that of China's effecting so great a reform in her judicial proceedings as to entitle her to ask for abolition of the extraterritorial clauses in her Treaties, which deprive her of jurisdiction over foreigners resident within her borders. No doubt this is an end which is most devoutly to be wished; but it is one which is by no means so easy of attainment as at first blush might appear. Ordinarily the ground upon which the claim by Europeans to extraterritoriality is justified is the existence of torture as an accessory to judicial proceedings. This is so manifestly a just reason for claiming the privilege that it has come by degrees to be looked upon as though it were the sole ground for doing so. There is thus a danger that if the Chinese gave up this exploded and barbarous custom, it might be hastily concluded that there was no longer any reason for insisting upon extraterritoriality. This position is very likely to be taken up by the Chinese who have always (and not unnaturally) felt a humiliation in the system, and are anxious that it should be abolished. If they could come forward and say to foreign nations "you have no more occasion for extraterritorial jurisdiction, as we have now given up torture, which was what you objected to," it is possible that they might succeed in their representations. It would, however, be a great mistake if this change alone were considered sufficient for making so radical a change. There is much more than the system of torture which is radically wrong in Chinese judicial procedure. Without wishing to lay unfair stress upon the point, it is impossible to ignore that there is an amount of habitual corruption among Chinese officials, which, it is impossible to ignore, finds its way into judicial as well as into other matters; and further there is the undoubted fact that in many cases the officials are too much inclined to yield to popular excitement, and are thus deprived of the independence which is essential in the administration of justice. To do away with these two drawbacks it would be necessary to effect a revolution in the whole of the Chinese administration, and to raise it to a position which it must take time to attain. It may, of course, be plausibly argued that defects of the same character are found among other nations, and that in dealing with them, we are content to take them as they are and accept their full territorial authority as we claim the like for ourselves. It is difficult to argue when the question at issue is one of degree; but we think there are few who will not recognise that there are essential points in which the Chinese differ from almost all other nations in this direction. The idea of treating foreigners with the same consideration as they treat their own subjects would never occur to the Chinese mind, if they had an absolutely free hand in dealing with them. It is true that in many instances they have shown themselves willing to do justice, but this has been under the consciousness that should they fail to do, pressure might be brought to bear upon them through diplomatic action. This is a very different thing from having a perfectly free hand, as they

would have in the exercise of judicial functions. Before we could have confidence in the latter we should have to be convinced that the Chinese had improved altogether in their administration, and that, at least, a great deal of the venality and bribery which are proverbially rife among them had been abandoned. Such a change as this is too much to look for for many years to come, though it is not so impossible as might at first be thought of being ultimately attained, once the Chinese mind can be made to work out of its accustomed grooves. With all their shortcomings, the Chinese have a fair sense of justice, and if they could only grasp the enormous practical importance of putting it into play in public matters, they would, with their keen intellect and practical common-sense form on the whole good jurists. Such a change, however, must be the work of time; and it would be necessary to wait for many years before there could be a hope of its being brought about. Until such time it would be unsafe to give up the right of extra-territoriality. Before leaving foreign subjects dependent upon Chinese justice, European nations must be satisfied that it will be administered in a way in which they could have reasonable confidence. The doing away with torture and even the abolition of barbarous punishments would not in themselves guarantee this. Something possibly might be done as a tentative measure in the form of mixed tribunals, where the authority of the Chinese might be recognised, but with the proviso that a European official should always sit in the Court as a kind of Co-Judge or Assessor, and that no judgment or sentence should be put into effect without his concurrence. Such a system might work satisfactorily as a step towards ultimately giving back complete jurisdiction to China. It would have the advantage on the one hand of making the Chinese acquainted with foreign modes of administering justice, and on the other of showing how far they were capable of doing so by themselves. If such an attempt failed, it would be obvious that it would be unsafe and inadvisable to think of abandoning extra-territoriality, but if on the other hand it were found that the Chinese were able and willing to administer substantial justice, this intermediate course would pave the way to a full recognition of Chinese jurisdiction. The subject, however, is one which must be dealt with with much care and circumspection. While all liberal-minded persons must feel the desirability of removing what is undoubtedly a humiliation to any people that is being deprived of the inherent right as a nation of administering justice in its own way within its territorial limits, it cannot be overlooked that the question is not one of theory but of far-reaching practical importance. The Consular system has worked fairly well hitherto, and it cannot be said that any grave injustice or even inconvenience has been caused by it either to individual Chinamen or to their Government. There is, therefore, no serious or pressing reason for a change, and however willing we may be to remove anything which may wound the legitimate national self-respect on the part of the Chinese, it would be neither to their interest nor to our own that we should assent, merely upon theoretical and sentimental grounds, to a change which might be fraught with much practical danger.

Individual shipowners in Japan, who own 180 vessels of 350,000 tons, propose to form a great steamship company with services to all the leading Asiatic and European ports. It is reported that the capital required will be at least 20,000,000 yen.

SHANGHAI RIVER CONSERVANCY.

(Daily Press, 17th January.)

Neither the important mercantile community of Shanghai nor the INSPECTOR GENERAL, through whose intrigues the present situation with regard to the conservation of the Hwangpu River, and the improvement of the approaches to the harbour of Shanghai, has been brought about, feels very happy over the last phase of this ugly business which has thrown the entire control of the harbour of the largest and most important port in East Asia into the hands of the reactionary party—in this case represented by Viceroy CHOU FU and Mr. KU HUNG-MING. In 1902, in accordance with the Convention of the previous year which on the model of the recent Thames Conservancy placed the control of the entrance to the port in an elective Board wherein all the interests, mercantile and political, were fairly represented, the Board was duly elected, with the exception, and the exception is noteworthy, of the foreign gentleman who was to represent the Inspectorate General. The gentleman named for the post was Mr., now Sir, ROBERT BREDON, and the apparent ground of sulking was the selection of Chairman. The other members of the Board claimed their right of election, but Mr. BREDON, acting doubtless under instructions from the INSPECTOR GENERAL, claimed the presidency as of right, and refused to fall into line with the others who, it was supposed, were disposed to elect Mr. JOHN GOODNOW, then U. S. Consul General, and an *ex-officio* member of the Board. In this unseemly struggle wherein Messrs. BREDON and GOODNOW, each with his own personal interest to serve, and each thinking far more of this than of the large commercial and shipping interests endangered, neither would give way; and the Board (incomplete without the appointment of the representative of the Maritime Customs on whom largely depended the financial portion of the scheme) was never duly constituted, and the whole remained *in nubibus*. Mr. GOODNOW, who never succeeded in altogether gaining the confidence of his nationals locally, has since resigned his office of Consul General, and entered the service of the Chinese Government. What office he was intended to fill was kept from public knowledge till within the last few weeks; it was generally rumoured that it was to be in connection with the Hwangpu Conservancy, and there is no doubt that his influence with the present reactionary VICEROY of Nanking has, so far, at least, as the provincial powers go, resulted in his appointment as Assistant Director. So far as is known at present the appointment has not been confirmed by the Peking authorities, but from the recent actions of the VICEROY, there seems every indication that in this, as in other affairs, he intends to act perfectly independently, and keep in his own hands the entire control. That the snub administered to Sir ROBERT BREDON, and through him to the INSPECTOR GENERAL, has been amply deserved no one in Shanghai will be found to doubt. Both for the last few years have thrown in their lots with the reactionary party, and have done everything in their power to hamper any attempt at advance. The post of Inspector General of Customs, which it was once hoped would be exercised as far as possible for the purpose of removing petty restrictions on trade, has been deliberately made use of for the purpose of obstruction, and it is time that some other arrangement more

consonant with the best interests of commerce, and more conducive to the lasting advantage of China as a world Power should be made. The engineer, it is true, has on this occasion been hoist on his own petard, but this, though strikingly in accordance with the eternal fitness of things, is but poor consolation for the enormous interests which are thereby endangered.

But if Mr. GOODNOW's name as Assistant Director be in some degree unsatisfactory, what shall we say to that of the Director in Chief, Mr. KU HUNG-MING? Mr. KU HUNG-MING is best known to the outside world as private secretary to H.E. CHANG CHI-HUNG, a post for which his almost elegant command of the English language eminently fitted him. Outside this he has essayed English literature with fair success as a writer. As a practical man he is, however, distinctly of the Baboo order; according to his lights, a patriotic Chinese, he has yet failed to master those points wherein the practical politician differs from the man whose knowledge has come from the academy. In India we have had much and unpleasant experience of this type of student who, while, at least, as quick as their European fellows to pick up the externals of Western knowledge, are quite unable to appreciate its inner working, and form with their crude indigested theories the most dangerous class in Bengal. This phase of Mr. KU's character has been perfectly understood by his superiors, who have never during his career ventured to place him in any independent sphere of office nor ever given him substantive rank. It has been reserved for Viceroy CHOU FU, himself a reactionary, to confer on him a substantive post, and one, moreover, where he is brought into contact with the very element which, in spite of his European education, he is the least capable of understanding. Such is the manner in which the Kiangnan VICEROY is preparing to carry out the Convention with regard to the conservation of the harbour of the most important port in China, and we cannot but reiterate the dissatisfaction which we expressed at the first news of the weakness which had permitted the terms of the original agreement, whereby the necessary works were placed in the hands of those most concerned, to be superseded in favour of a sentimental cry. It was, of course, in deference to the supposed superior experience of the INSPECTOR GENERAL, and in weak submission to his views that the body of the foreign Ministers at Peking gave way. The present INSPECTOR GENERAL has, however, for the last five years definitely ranged himself alongside the reactionary party. We have before spoken of the reasons, which were not altogether his own seeking; but having taken the downward plunge he has naturally been unable to recover the position lost, but the scandalous intrigue which has resulted in the appointment of the travesty of a Board which the Kiangnan VICEROY would inflict, and the slap in the face administered to the Inspectorate is not a promising indication of what we are to expect in the near future. Technically the new agreement contains a saving clause, that in case the local authorities should not proceed with the works required the originally constructed Board of Control is to be re-established. Practically the weak yielding on a matter of practice has raised difficulties well nigh insurmountable in the path, and there is no doubt that the intrigue to place the control in the hands of the Inspectorate General will be again renewed. From recent experience, as well as from previous knowledge of the views

prevailing in Peking, we have every reason to anticipate that the only result of acquiescence will be a return to the old system of letting the whole question slide. The Shanghai Chamber of Commerce has at once drawn attention to the unfitness of the appointments, but their resolution to appeal for information to the "Senior Consul" is an indication into what a chaos affairs at the neighbouring port have been permitted to drift. This Senior Consul is from the necessities of the case generally the most inactive and the least influential of all; strong men, and those representing the more important Powers, being as a rule more frequently changed. It is into such hands under the present regime that the management of affairs between the community and the Chinese officials usually drifts. The result is continual intrigue; and, as we have lately seen, continual disorder and misunderstanding. More than any other the British Government, which has immeasurably the largest interests in the port, is to blame for the chaotic condition of affairs.

CHINA SITUATION IN A NUTSHELL.

(Daily Press, 18th January.)

China is awaking—that is its intellectuals; China is stirring—that is its young ideal, the university product; China promises to make a mess of it—that is its unchanging proletariat. Such appears to be the situation to-day, concisely summed. The intellectuals, not necessarily implying the literati, have discovered that the happy mean is not really identified so long as there are extremes still unexplored. The object lessons gained by enforced contemplation of their neighbours have awakened them from their self-satisfied dream, and convinced them against their will that all was not for the best in this best of middle empires. That was the first step gained. But that wisdom which should always supplement knowledge was with them, inherent, a national birthright, born of centuries of experience; and the outside world yearned to hustle the East out of its exaggerated conservatism. "Hustle" is a symptom peculiar to youth, and it remained for the students to startle both old East and young West by the suddenness with which they grasped the new spirit. They, unlike their elders, have been swallowing ideas with avidity, and are impatient for the Chinese Utopia that figures so stereoscopically in their young eyes. They have had the benefit, if benefit it be, of unexpurgated history brought up to date, and are inspired by the sense of injustice to put things right. Injustice to youth is like the adagial red rag to the bull. It is a surer provocation than patriotism. And youth so inspired, full of its awful responsibility (although its elders regard it as "audacious irresponsibility") is prone to short cuts. The end is all; the means nothing. Sometimes to talk of the illusions of youth may be to talk inaccurately. Perhaps these things are real that present themselves to their clear vision; perhaps it is only that youth has not realised its limitations. Age brings that knowledge, the sense of powerlessness, of impotence; and age sees the ideal objective less clearly, because (let us confess it in confidence) it is more comfortable to drop eyelids over tired eyes. That is one way of looking at it, but age can claim the merit of a sort of common-sense to which youth is in the nature of things a stranger. Youth, to use an Americanism, has energy to burn, and turns naturally to iconoclastic ways of setting the world right.

Age conserves energy, and emulates the eclecticism of the bee, content to build upon what is good of the past. Young China has seen Japan in enviable status, and is in a state of glamour in consequence. It is too much to expect young China to go slow. The truth of Bacon's subtle remark, "a froward retention of custom is as turbulent a thing as innovation," has penetrated their vitals, and become an obsession. Their idea is, naturally, to get rid of their instructors, of all the foreigners, so that they can begin to build on a clear foundation. They wish to begin where Japan has left off. They are almost in the position of those agitators of the unemployed in London, who have been saying, "Damn your charity; give us Utopia by Act of Parliament, and we will not require assistance." With all their wonderful foreign learning, they (the Chinese students) are still influenced, like many of their betters, by hereditary instincts. One is the old mistrust of strangers—a primal instinct apparently, that permeates the whole animal kingdom—which we now describe, *vis-à-vis* the Chinese, as the anti-foreign feeling, or "alienophobia." The *Kokumin*, a Japanese newspaper, has recently remarked that almost all popular movements in China are more or less influenced by this spirit. This is interesting confirmation of the *ex parte* European opinion. It is this which makes old China dread young China. These students would be beneath notice if it were not that they are imbued with the prejudice of the proletariat, whose effects, when encouraged and evoked officially in the past, are by no means forgotten. The sympathy subsisting between the student-reformers and the proletariat is the danger; student ideals and popular prejudices are a blend to be dreaded like dynamite. The Japanese seem to see clearly the mine that is being prepared, and it is perhaps their superior acumen which has brought them under suspicion of being aiders and abettors. Such suspicions will be repented, we venture to think, on an approaching occasion.

CANTON-HANKOW RAILWAY TAXATION TROUBLE.

(Daily Press, 19th January.)

It is quite possible that the situation at Canton may be either less serious or more serious than we know at present; but in any event there must remain the anxiety lest the assiduously encouraged and long wished-for railway scheme may be again set back. With this in mind—and it is too late in the day now to look for anybody who does not realise its almost supreme importance to this Colony, so we need not again dwell on it—we are somewhat at a loss to know just how to regard the exciting developments that our Canton Correspondent has been so faithfully chronicling for us. It were easy to harp on the notorious failings of the Viceroy, but while there are many interested in foreign commerce who will rejoice if he be removed to a more distant sphere of labour, we cannot but recognise that to a certain extent and in his own way he is fighting our battles. We want to see South China keeping pace with North China in modern progress and advancement; we need efficient railway connection with Hankow as a preliminary step; and we know that if left to take their own time and to go their own way about it, the people of Kwangtung will keep us whistling for it a very long time indeed. Not that they do not want it themselves, for it would be stupid to suggest that they are any the less capable of foreseeing the benefits to be derived. The thought that occurs to us,

however, on reading Viceroy SHUM's proclamation, is that there may be a modicum of truth in his view of the matter. It is a possibility we are bound to consider. We know that he is a shrewd diplomat, particularly clever at stating a case, and that the plausibility of his arguments may be a matter of cunning artifice oftener than a reflection of truth. But we know also that no people can be expected to rejoice at taxation. We have been led to believe that the Chinese are accustomed to being taxed to the limit, and we naturally wish to conclude that such a demonstration as we have just witnessed at Canton has been provoked by the last straw in that connection. There is to consider, however, the change that has recently crossed the spirit of their dream. The Chinese people, for long accustomed to bend to the breeze, and to adjust themselves uncomplainingly to the yoke of government, have begun to talk and act like our own (foreign) peoples. They have been absorbing ideas on the subject of the inalienable rights of man, and demanding liberty, equality, and fraternity. The anti-American agitation is continued in defiance of official interdicts; evidently because they have learned to consider the ill-treatment of Chinese, not as an insult to their nation, but as an injustice to their race. If this theory be correct, official China (Manchus) has more trouble to face. The Cantonese, always the most independent kind of Chinese, are claiming the right of free speech. Vocal freedom, on tongues unused to it, may easily run to vocal licence. Viceroy SHUM is advised that it has just done so. Our reports from Canton go to show that quite enough was said to startle officials of the old school, accustomed to unquestioning obedience to authority; or if not always obedience, at least freedom from overt defiance. Viceroy SHUM's frequent allusions to "presumption," "audacity," and so on, may be taken as sincere: he has not yet realised that the old order is changing. There is a good deal in his proclamation that is impressive, almost touching; if those portions were written with his tongue in his cheek, then they were composed with all the cunning of BARBIE's "Sentimental Tommy," and with all that gifted young hypocrite's insight into human nature. It appears that we are chiefly indebted to the nearness of the Chinese New Year for our present immunity from more embarrassing demonstrations; and we trust that the truce will permit of a settlement which will not dislocate business, and still permit of the railway scheme being pushed to a successful issue. So far as we can see at present, the official appointments already made, of directors, etc., should be rescinded, and the prospectus left to the merchants and guilds to see what they can do with it first. According to our notions, the government grant or share-money might better be allocated from Peking, but even then the appointment of official representatives would be a thorny point. The Chinese distrust official fingers in such pies, and with good reason. Perhaps if China were to appoint a foreign Inspector-General of Railways, à la the Imperial Customs, the difficulties would be solved. Their ambition to recover all concessions would not be so much distrusted in that event, and Chinese investors would be less timorous.

The total increase of stamp revenue in the Colony for 1905 was \$42,177.20. Bank note duty showed an increase of \$18,046.26; impressed stamps, of \$34,970.98; telegraph forms of 50 cents, and emigration fees of \$126. The decreases shown were:—Embossed stamps, \$10,683.54; medical declaration, \$20; medical registration, \$5, and bills of health, \$258.

CHINA AND RUSSIA.

(Daily Press, 20th January.)

The state of affairs which has arisen in Russia is suggestive of very important considerations with respect to China should she ever venture upon hostilities with a foreign Power. The similarity of the internal condition of the two countries has been brought prominently into notice in a variety of ways during the recent war. Russia, like China, had the appearance to superficial observers of a country under so strong a central Government that the power of the supreme authority was absolute and unassailable. No one before the recent war would have thought that anything in the form of a serious rebellion was possible in a country so thoroughly under control as Russia was generally supposed to be. Yet we find that, when brought to the test, Russia was honeycombed with sedition which only required a suitable opportunity to break out and to set all law and order at defiance.

Those acquainted with the internal state of China are well aware that a precisely similar state of things has existed in this country for some time. The history of China affords too much reason to fear that in the event of any unexpected pressure on the central authority, such as would be brought about by a war, the same results as have been produced in Russia would infallibly follow. It will be remembered that the war of 1858 and 1860 between China and the allied forces was speedily followed by the Tai-Ping Rebellion, which was suppressed only by the aid of Gordon's Invincible Army. At the time, the Chinese authorities, *more suo*, put down the whole of this evil to this war and ignored altogether the chief cause of the trouble which was their own corrupt and arbitrary government. In this, there is an exact parallel between China at that time and Russia in the present day. Nothing can form a better test of solidarity or otherwise of a nation at a given period than a war, and more especially a war which is unsuccessful. If a nation is in a healthy internal state, the effect of external trouble is to draw it more closely together than it was before; but where serious discontent exists, a disruption of a more or less serious character is certain to ensue. China, it is notorious, has been in a chronic state of discontent, unfortunately with too much reason, for a long time; and there can be very little question that the strain which would be placed upon her, should she ever attempt serious hostilities with any nation, would be more than the country would bear.

Of this fact no one is better aware than the Chinese authorities themselves. They are far too shrewd not to have taken warning by the lessons of the past; and they are quite aware of the danger of internal disorder which hostilities with a foreign nation would bring about. In fact, there is probably no nation which has less real cohesion than China; and the dread of disturbances which may be beyond the power of the central authority to subdue is constantly before the official mind, and is indeed the secret of much of their vacillation and weakness. It is in all cases extremely difficult to awaken anything like a true national feeling in China. The rule is each Province and even each District for itself. A quarrel between the central Government at Peking and a given power is not necessarily regarded as one between, say, the Canton Province and the same nation—and a high authority such as the

Viceroy of the Two Kwang would not consider it out of the way to take his own course in such a matter, though he might still perfunctorily obey the orders from Peking with regard to it.

A question of war between China and any foreign nation thus stands upon a very different footing to the same question with respect to Japan, where the people are thoroughly united and are also in the highest degree patriotic. In the latter case, for good cause, it is possible to move the nation as a whole and to employ its full strength to repel any aggression or any undue threat upon its rights and independence. Of these we have had ample proof in the recent war, and, as is usual in such cases, people have been disposed to deduce conclusions from the fact, which in reality it will not in any way justify. The speculations as to the danger to European nations should China follow in the wake of Japan, and become so strengthened as to rank as a Power worthy of consideration in a warlike point of view, are thus based upon a comparison of nations essentially different in their constitution, in their political character and, above all, in their national instincts. Before ever China could become sufficiently strengthened to make her anything like a formidable antagonist, she would require to undergo an internal change such as would make it unlikely that she would without grave hesitation think of entering upon any such course. Before she could be physically in a position to entertain such an enterprise China would have to make great internal reforms; and, in fact, to place her administration, as the Japanese did, very much upon foreign lines. Without such a reform she could never be a strong centralised Power, and until she is in such a position (if she is destined ever to attain to it) it would be hopeless for her to endeavour to compete seriously in a struggle with any foreign Power. The apprehensions, therefore, that the example of Japan will have a dangerous effect upon China and tend to induce a new aggressiveness are well founded as regards the modern students and proletariat, but needless so long as the older heads retain control. The signs of the times, however, give rise to speculations as to how long the hotheads can be restrained. The new Anglo-Japanese Treaty promises more and more to justify itself, and will probably yet be a source of profound thankfulness in more than one quarter.

INTERNATIONAL BALL AT HONGKONG.

IN HONOUR OF PRINCE ARTHUR.

It was undoubtedly a happy thought which suggested an international ball as part of the festivities which will mark the presence of H.R.H. Prince Arthur of Connaught in Hongkong next month. The date has been fixed, Monday, February 12th, and the arrangements are being carried out by a sub-committee appointed by the Reception Committee, of which Sir Francis Piggott is president and Mr. W. Armstrong secretary. The cosmopolitan nature of the ball will be appreciated when it is understood that the various local Consuls are co-operating, and there can be little doubt that the gathering will be a success.

In a book on Chinese emigration Gottwaldt states that while there are 274,548 Chinese in Hongkong, there are 272,829 in "All America," or 1,719 less Chinese than are in Hongkong. If all of the 270,000 were resident in the United States, which they are not, that number would be less than 4 per cent. of Chinese living abroad, the total number of which is 7,642,650, representing less than 2 per cent. of the total Chinese population.

ST. GEORGE'S BALL.

A BRILLIANT EVENT.

Those who had doubts that there was not sufficient national sentiment in the breasts of Englishmen in the colony to ensure the success of a St. George's Ball must have found their misgivings disappear on Jan. 19 as they entered the City Hall, and they would not be there long ere they would realise how erroneous were their early impressions. Though they have not the clannishness of the Scot they have never failed to rally at the call "St. George and Merrie England," and while that battle-cry is no longer uttered its effects are obtained to-day by appealing in a different manner to the patriotism of Englishmen and Englishwomen. Certainly a greater measure of success could hardly have been obtained than that which rewarded the effort of the committee of the St. George's Ball last night. A large attendance of ladies and gentlemen, numbering about 800 or 900, handsomely decorated rooms, a good floor and exquisite music, all went to make one of the most enjoyable assemblies and one of the most brilliant ball-room scenes of the season, and no one who shared the pleasures of the evening could restrain the hope that the event might become an annual one. In this way the sons of the sister kingdoms would be given an opportunity of vieing with each other in the dispensing of hospitality and promoting entertainment which would be much appreciated during the time usually given over to such social intercourse.

Arrived at the entrance to the hall, one's attention was caught by the St. George's cross which ran up the stairway, the cross being formed with red cloth on a white ground. This very effective design, which originated from Major Pritchard, very appropriately led up to the large illuminated figure of St. George killing the dragon. Resting a moment on the landing and looking downwards in order to take in the scheme of decoration, one noticed the pillars round which entwined bands of red cloth, the balustrade enveloped in floral adornments, and then at the top two beautiful rose trees which were brought by Mr. G. A. Caldwell from Foochow. To all who observed them they were indeed "a thing of beauty." It was a most appropriate addition to the decorations, and the beautiful red and white flowers, expressive of artistic workmanship, looked still more effective by their environment of palms and pot plants. Peeping out from amongst the greenery on the landing were two khaki-coloured Maxim guns, and above them were two banners with St. George's crosses. Flanking the figure of St. George and the dragon were Royal standards, and intertwined flags carried the eye to a top of the stairs to the shield bearing the red dragon of Wales, this standing out conspicuously from the mass of bunting which covered the walls. Flowers of brilliant hue were placed on the balustrade and one could not but admire the picturesque effects which the introduction of electricity in this direction produced. By this time one noted a change in the usual arrangements. Three rooms were devoted to dancing, and after passing through the reception room, the walls of which were enhanced by a shield bearing St. George and the dragon (a very fine piece of work by Mr. L. G. Bird) and others bearing harps, one entered St. George's Hall. Brilliant is the only description which fittingly applied to the scene. St. George's cross met the eye everywhere. The walls were draped with bunting which showed the same character in red and white, while the roof, treated with red and white Japanese lanterns, about 60 (the work of Messrs. Wilks and Jack, assisted by Mr. Wickham), bore the same telling device. The scheme was very simple but very effective. Another pretty feature was the Tudor roses which glowed above the bunting. Moving into the next hall which was christened St. David's Room, the spectator found himself gazing on many emblems of the Principality. Most conspicuous were the representations of the look at either end. At the top was the crest of the Prince of Wales with the motto "Ich Dien," opposite being a white goat reminiscent of mountain scenery. On the walls were shields bearing the National Arms. At the foot of two were the words

"Cymru am Bath" (Wales for Ever) and at the foot of other two shields showing the Welsh dragon were inscribed "Y Ddraig Cochaddry Gychwyn." As in St. George's Hall, the walls were festooned and draped, a most interesting feature being the Union Jack shadowed by brazier lanterns, a graceful allusion to the alliance between Britain and Japan. The theatre, which was utilised as a supper room, had also been skilfully and artistically treated. The stage equipment was employed to produce a very pretty sylvan scene, in which was laid the horse-shoe table, at which sat the President and the following ladies and gentlemen at supper:—H. E. the Governor and Lady Piggott, Sir Francis Piggott and Lady Noel, Commodore Williams, and Mrs. Hatton, Col. Kent and Mrs. Williams, Sir H. Berkeley and Mrs. Chatham, The Hon. Mr. W. Chatham and Mrs. Clark, The Hon. Mr. Francis Clark and Mrs. Dixon, The Hon. Mr. R. Shewan and Mrs. Guibert, Col. C. H. Darling and Mrs. Stewart, The Hon. Mr. G. Stewart and Mrs. Grant, The Hon. Mr. H. E. Pollock, K.C., and Mrs. Kent, Sir C. P. Chater, C.M.G., and Lady Berkeley. The front of the gallery was heightened with spears and a railing of red rope, flags adorned the pillars, and shields were hung in front. Altogether a more charming picture has seldom been seen here.

Before 9 o'clock the guests had begun to arrive and at that hour the Band of the West Kents struck up the music for the opening dance, Lancers. The official set was composed of the Governor and Lady Piggott, Sir Francis Piggott and Lady Noel, Commodore Williams and Mrs. Hatton, Sir H. Berkeley, and Mrs. Williams, Hon. Mr. W. Chatham and Mrs. Wise, Hon. Dr. Francis Clark and Lady Berkeley, Hon. Mr. Gershom Stewart and Mrs. Chatham, Hon. Mr. H. E. Pollock and Mrs. Stewart. The programme of 22 dances was then proceeded with in a manner which showed the company were really enjoying the pleasures of the evening.

About 11 o'clock the dancing was interrupted by a picturesque feature. This was the procession of beefeaters, which certainly gave a peculiarly English aspect to the event. Four men of the West Kent Regiment dressed in yeoman costume and headed by two trumpeters, marched in bearing a boar's head, appropriate music being played by the band. This was much appreciated and evoked varied expressions of pleasure.

Supper followed, H.E. the Governor presiding, as stated, and the band of the Balmoris discoursing selections from behind the scenes. There were four toasts, introduced by calls on the trumpet. They were: The King, St. George, St. David and His Excellency.

Needless to say, the arrangements were of the most adequate description. The hon. secretary, Mr. C. H. Beavis, on whom fell the burden of the work, discharged his duties in a most capable manner. Mr. P. P. J. Wodehouse was secretary of the Invitation Committee, and the Decoration Committee was composed of Capt. Bellson, Mr. F. B. L. Bowley, Mr. G. A. Caldwell, Mr. A. Denison, Mr. S. T. Dunn, Mr. C. Fittock, Major Pritchard, Mr. A. Turner, Mr. W. H. Wickham, and Mr. E. C. Wilks.

The officials and general committee were:—Patron, H. E. Sir Matthew Nathan, K.C.M.G.; President, Sir Francis Piggott; Vice President, Sir Henry S. Berkeley; General Committee—Mr. R. Atkinson, Lt.-Col. A. E. Aitken, Mr. A. Babington, Mr. F. J. Badeley, Mr. J. Barton, Sir Henry S. Berkeley (Chairman), Mr. F. B. L. Bowley, Mr. G. H. Butterworth, Mr. G. A. Caldwell, Major Chichester, The Hon. Dr. F. Clark, Mr. J. Daniel, Mr. W. Danby, Col. C. H. Darling, R.E., Mr. W. H. T. Davis, Mr. V. H. Deacon, Mr. F. B. Deacon, Mr. A. Denison, Mr. H. W. Derrner, Mr. S. T. Dunn, Mr. C. Fittock, Lt.-Col. Fitton, D.S.O., Mr. A. G. M. Fletcher, Mr. H. J. Gudge, Mr. C. H. Grace, Dr. G. M. Harston, Mr. S. Hancock, Mr. E. A. Hankey, Mr. F. H. Hazeland, Mr. E. A. Hewett, Mr. A. C. Holborow, Mr. A. Shelton Hooper, Mr. Jones Hughes, Mr. J. A. Jupp, Mr. L. S. Lewis, Mr. H. W. Looker, Mr. C. W. May, Mr. G. H. Medhurst, Mr. E. W. Mitchell, Mr. G. O. Moxon, The Hon. Mr. H. E. Pollock, K.C., Major Phillips, Mr. W. H. Potts, Lt.-Col. C. H. Price, D.S.O., Major C. G. Pritchard

Mr. E. W. Rutter, Mr. W. J. Saunders, Mr. E. H. Sharp, K.C., Mr. A. H. Skelton, Mr. M. W. Slade, Dr. F. O. Stedman, Mr. A. G. Stokes, Mr. A. Brooke-Smith, The Hon. Mr. T. Serecombe Smith, Mr. C. H. Thompson, Mr. A. Turner, Mr. W. C. D. Turner, Mr. J. Y. V. Vernon, Mr. A. W. Whittall, Mr. H. P. White, Mr. W. H. Wickham, Mr. C. D. Wilkinson, Mr. E. C. Wilks, Commodore Williams, His Honour Mr. Justice Wise, and Dr. Bateson Wright.

HONGKONG TO PEKING.

AN INTERESTING JOURNEY.

"Had a good time?" This, or something like it, was the invariable salutation to a Hongkong gentleman just returned from a journey over the newly-opened Lu-han Railway. So much interest has been taken locally in his travels, that a *Daily Press* representative was instructed to interview the returned traveller, and thus to answer the enquiries *en bloc*.

"Yes, it was a very interesting and, I think, instructive trip," he said. "I will say nothing of the familiar journey to Shanghai and Hankow by sea and river, except to mention that the river trip was more than usually pleasant. The new interest begins at the Hankow terminus of the 'ligne de Pekin a Hankow, division sud, of the Compagnie Imperiale des Chemins de Fer Chinois.' Got that down?" he asked, with a twinkling eye.

"You encounter a good deal of French on this trip," he explained. "The line starts from the French Settlement at Hankow, the station being about five hundred yards behind the Astor House Hotel. And all the way along, at every station, everybody, including the Chinese, talks nothing but French. No English is spoken. The line, of course, was constructed by French and Belgian engineers; and I was told that they got a lot of assistants from the Jesuits. In the train, once or twice, I heard a French conductor airing a word or two of English, like 'sir' and 'soap,' words which did not conduce to conversational brilliancy. It was November when I began the journey. We left Hankow at eight in the morning—Hankow Ville. There are three stations, by the way, Han (the Chinese city) Hankow Ville, and Hankow Fluviale. Once entrained, there is nothing to be had to drink, except water and Chinese tea, until Peking is reached. Not even aerated waters. Well, to get on. After running through the province of Hupeh for half the day, passing a station almost every twenty or thirty kilometres, we come to Kouang Choei. Perhaps you had better take a list of the stations for reference. I don't know that they have appeared in the press before. They are (the figures represent 'le point kilometrique'):

- 0 Han
- 5 Hankow Ville
- 9 Hankow Fluviale
- 22 Niekow
- 42 Ki Kia Wang
- 61 San Kia Pou
- 74 Chiao Kan Sien
- 88 Tsion Kia Kan
- 108 Hoa Yen
- 124 Wang Kia Tien
- 153 Kouang Choei
- 166 Tong Houan Tien
- 180 Sin Tien
- 186 Li Kia Tsai
- 196 Li-on Lin
- 218 Sin Yang Tcheou
- 241 Tsang Tai Kouang
- 257 Ming Kiang
- 274 Sin Chang Tien
- 294 Tcho Sang Sien
- 313 Tchu Ma Tien.

"You get to the last-named place, by the way, at about two minutes past nineteen o'clock, French time-table. We changed train at Kouang Choei, and passed through the next station at 33 minutes past 13 or thereabouts. There was a semi-foreign hotel at Tchu Ma Tien, where the attendance was very good—boys from Shanghai who could speak a little English. Although the trains so far were very comfortable, the first-class cars having heating apparatus, and being comfortably upholstered in American cloth, I was quite glad to go to bed about twenty-three o'clock—I do not believe in

late hours anyway, and I had to be up soon to catch the 7.5 a.m. train on the next stage, to

- 33 Soui Ping Sien
- 358 Si Ping Sien
- 380 Yeng Tchen Sien
- 408 Lin Ying Sien
- 434 Chu Tcheou
- 455 Ho Shang Kio
- 474 Sin Tsen Sien
- 498 Sie Tsouang

and 520 Tsen Tcheou,

where we were due at thirteen o'clock. The route ran through hilly, picturesque country, and it is on this stretch that there is the only tunnel on the whole line, a boring which takes about six or seven minutes to clear. The country all round (Hupeh and Honan) is given up to cotton culture. The various methods are primitive, such as have been followed for thousands of years. I suppose. Cotton growing has been greatly encouraged, I learned, by the making of the railway. It affords such excellent facilities for getting the crop to Hankow. Unfortunately, the plants themselves are far from healthy; stunted, sickly, and the buds small. I suggested to a Canadian missionary up there that the introduction of fresh seeds from America might improve things, and he said he would try to get the Taotai to support a scheme for introducing these among the cultivators.

"Did you have any trouble with currency, such as other travellers speak of?"

"I did, indeed. It was a great trouble. In Hupeh province, both notes (Hupeh) and Mexican dollars are accepted, but beyond, there was continual annoyance. I will tell you about that, however, when we get there. At Tsen Tcheou we had to change and get into a construction car; this, of course, will not be necessary when the line is quite finished. I forgot to mention that at every station you may buy an abundance of various kinds of fruit, which compensates to a certain extent for the dearth of liquid refreshments. I noticed pears, pomegranates, grapes, persimmons, and very fine pea-nuts. An hour's ride on the construction train brought us to China's sorrow, the famous Yellow River. We had then about a third of a mile to walk to get to the bridge. I was told I might walk over the bridge, and started to do so. My coolies went leaping merrily over with my baggage, but when I found that the men were still at work on the bridge, which is nearly two miles long, and that they had left gaps of four and five feet over which I was expected to jump, and when I looked at the rushing torrent far beneath, I turned back, preferring to cross by boat. I re-raced my steps, or rather jumps, two or three hundred yards, and waded through a mile of soft sand to find one of the light Chinese boats by which the crossing is made. Each has a crew of about a dozen men and into the midst of these, I, my boy, and baggage were bundled. The crossing was a very interesting process, and thoroughly Chinese in character. First they punted, four on each side, working hard against a very strong tide. After half-an-hour of this, I looked for the bridge, and was startled to see it looking very small away in the distance. The tide then became stronger than ever, and the punt-poles had to be hauled inboard. The men then took two strong anchors, each with a stout rope attached, and threw one into the water, ahead of the boat. As soon as the anchor gripped bottom, the boat swung, and, by a clever performance with the rudder, they made it swing in the desired direction. At the psychological moment, when the impetus is almost conquered by the current they throw the other anchor ahead, at the same time snatching up the one already down. This is repeated over and over again, and yard by yard (for it is not a quick mode of travel) they fight their way to shoal water. Along this shoal, about a third of a mile long, with barely sufficient water to float us, they allowed the boat to drift, and took rest and refreshment after their arduous exertions. Before the end of the shoal, having spared one eye from their chow to watch it, they began to punt again, and when close enough to the opposite shore men jumped out and took tow ropes. They would have towed us back to the bridge, or to the point nearest the line, but my boy suggested that we could save time by going ashore and hiring coolies to carry our

baggage along the sands to the train. This was to save about two hours. We did it, and I had the not very exhilarating exercise of trotting another mile and a half through shifting sand, with the thermometer at freezing point or thereabout. I should here mention that for the crossing we had a "lucky day." It took three hours, whereas it often takes six. We had to take another construction train now. There is no sign of a station on the Peking side of the river, and our car was simply a luggage waggon. All were packed in together, and, possibly being excited with so many thrilling experiences, I remember thinking that I ought to have a label pasted on me, and be wheeled along the Peking platform by a porter. Seriously, we suffered this inconvenient vehicle for two hours only, after which we were transferred to a proper car again. All the way, I may tell you, I met with nothing but politeness from the natives, and I do not think foreigners need fear any sort of molestation at all, even with the journey so broken up as mine was. At present, or then, at any rate, we could book through from Hankow to the river, but on the north side, we had to re-book each morning. At Sin Siang Sien, where we slept, I experienced one of the great dust storms for which that part of the world is so notorious. I suppose it blows from the miles of dry dunes that line the Yellow River. It was a painful trial for eyes and lungs and temper. The country was now flat and uninteresting, windswept, the land cultivated in quaint old-fashioned ways (I saw a wooden plough drawn by an ox and an ass yoked together), and the inhabitants were poor and apparently apathetic. Many of them did not even turn their heads to look at the train. The next stop was at Shunte-fou, on the old section, which we reached at half-past seven. Next day (the fifth of my wanderjahr, so to speak) we got to Peking, at a quarter to nineteen o'clock. Now, about the currency question, as you asked me. I was told at Hankow that it was necessary to take Mexican dollars, but not wishing to be weighed down with a load of metal such as that would involve, I made further enquiries, and was told that Peking notes would answer after Hupeh. Alas! They did not, and I was in a quandary very soon. I met a Belgian engineer in the midst of this worry, and got him to explain to the station officials that these Peking notes were good. He seemed to be giving the whole history of banking from the beginning of time, and the officials were much impressed. The impression was not the one desired, however, and my good Samaritan had to rescue me in another way. He hunted round and found a man who could give me Mexicans for my notes. It was a trouble to me that I could not fraternise with him over a social glass; some day, when China is overrun with railways, replete with Smith's bookstalls and Spiers and Pond's buffets, I may pass that way again, and, if my Belgian friend is still in the neighbourhood, I will signify my gratitude in the usual manner. As it was, it might have been very awkward. Mexican dollars are accepted everywhere, and that without discount or squeeze of any kind. The Chinese themselves in those parts did not rise above copper cash. I was surprised to see men walking about with strings of it, haggling over prices, and then counting off the amount in cash. But there was also a tremendous amount of copper cents, ten cash pieces nominally, but of different mintage and value in each province. The scene at Peking station was like pandemonium. Each passenger is attacked and surrounded by a mob of howling coolies. I was glad when the man from the Hotel des Waggon's Lite disentangled me, and took me to that splendidly equipped and nobly served hostelry. It is the best in the Far East.

"What? Better than the—?"

"Well, may be not so big and grand, but it is more comfy. I will call it second-best, if you like."

To a remark about the likelihood of tourists being attracted to the route described, our voyageur said he had heard that the Americans were already finding it out, and making use of it. He sees a great future for it.

A Chinese body was found in Gilman Street, opposite No. 23, on Thursday. The cause of death was plague. This is the first case for the year.

HONGKONG AMATEUR DRAMATIC CLUB.

PRODUCTION OF "THE NEW BOY."

The hard work and study which the members of the Hongkong Amateur Dramatic Club have devoted to the production of "The New Boy" culminated on Jan. 12th in a successful first night. True, this was only to be expected, for the Club by previous achievements has acquired a reputation for all-round excellence which it cannot afford to lose and thus it is that the announcement of any performance by this organisation is practically a guarantee of a good night's enjoyment. Admittedly the public are indulgent and do not expect so much from amateurs as from professional artistes, but this indulgence is altogether unnecessary in the case of the A. D. C. who may, without injustice to themselves, be judged by the standard applied to the ordinary stage performers.

Certainly the artistes had every inducement to acquit themselves well. Apart from the well arranged stage and effects, they were encouraged by the presence of a large and sympathetic audience, of ladies and gentlemen willing to overlook little faults and ready to cordially praise their histrionic ability whenever they afforded them the opportunity. In these circumstances it was comparatively easy to overcome any tendencies to stage fright and the piece ran with a smoothness that was in the highest degree commendable. Indeed one could imagine that one was looking at professionals so easily and naturally did every artiste conduct himself or herself, and it is no empty compliment to say that their performance was infinitely superior to some we have witnessed here by experienced Thespians.

The light mirthsome character of the piece gave them ample scope for revealing their own ideas and treating the various incidents in a manner that while faithful to the book showed striking originality and artistic merit. "The New Boy" is described as a farce in three acts, and it certainly does not belie the appellation. The author, Mr. Arthur Law, has made the plot more pronounced in this production than in the ordinary farce, but with that exception, the piece runs on conventional lines. A frivolous old gentleman makes the customary asinine exhibition when he comes under the spell of feminine fascination, and as the two characters exchanged places the most extraordinary complications ensue, while the situations are exceedingly funny and the dialogue is amusing without being vulgar.

The cast, which was by no means numerous, was as follows:
Archibald Rennick (aged 30)—Mr. Tester.
Dr. Candy, LL.D. (Principal of Birchgrove School, Dulwich; aged 60)—Mr. H. M. Kendall.
Felix Roach (aged 40)—Major Philipps, R. A.
Theodore de Brizac (a French master)—Mr. Smith, R. A.
Bullock Major (a pupil, aged 17)—Mr. F. C. Kendall.
Mr. Stubber (aged 50)—Mr. Northcote.
Mrs. Rennick (aged 40)—Mrs. Francis Clark.
Nancy Roach (Felix Roach's daughter, aged 16)—Miss Blair.
Susan (a servant, aged 20)—Miss Shelton Hooper.

Stage Manager—Mr. Michie.

When the curtain was raised it disclosed a well-appointed drawing room, and the audience were soon introduced to the principal characters who made a very favourable impression. At the outset the movement was perhaps hardly enough, but the piece improved on further acquaintance, and by the time the first act was completed there was a consensus of opinion finding expression in laudatory terms. The second act was even better, and in the third act the fun became fast and furious, and the constant peals of laughter which rang out from all parts of the Theatre was a warm tribute to the success of the artistes, who made the most of the humorous incidents with which the piece abounds.

Coming to the individual work of the artistes it is pleasant to be in a position where no unfavourable comment is called for. Allowing the ladies to take the precedence which gallantry demands, it must be admitted that the star of

the evening was Miss Blair. As Nancy Roach she acted the sweet maid of sixteen with a charming vivacity and naiveté and evidently felt quite at home in the part. A more difficult rôle was assigned Mrs. Francis Clark as Mrs. Rennick. Wishing to keep her second marriage with Rennick a secret from Dr. Candy, on whom she founded very material hopes, involved the most extraordinary duplicity to which she gave a colourable verisimilitude, and her performance must certainly be described as very skilful, though at times she showed an unnecessary restraint. Susan the servant found a capable exponent in Miss Shelton Hooper, who had little to do but did that little well. All the fun of the play really centred in Archibald Rennick, the diminutive husband of Mrs. Rennick, who actually passed himself off as her son. In Mr. Tester the character undoubtedly lost none of its effect. He brought out the humour so irresistibly that he convulsed the house when he appeared in short trousers and acquitted himself like a rather precocious youth. Of quite a different stamp was Mr. H. M. Kendall who impersonated Dr. Candy, the principal of the school. Dignified, kindly, and firm, except when his affections were touched by his early love, he gave a clever and artistic exhibition. In filling the part of Felix Roach, Major Philipps had perhaps a more difficult study, but he acquitted himself well as the keen calculating man of business, while Mr. Smith, R. A., certainly made a very good French master, such as is expected from Theodore de Brizac. Bullock Major, the pupil who tyrannised over the unfortunate Rennick, was capably represented by Mr. F. C. Kendall, and the part of the irate farmer whose orchard was plundered suited Mr. Northcote.

In according a meed of praise to the individual members of the cast, one must not overlook the very important part played by one whom the audience did not see on the boards. Mr. Michie as stage manager was largely responsible for the success of the production, while in Mr. M. S. Northcote the club were fortunate in having a capable business manager.

The band of the 119th Infantry was present and discoursed selections.

THE SANITARY BOARD ELECTION

A NEW CANDIDATE: THE RATE RECEIPT QUESTION.

We learn that Mr. Henry Humphreys, of the Humphreys' Estate Company, Ltd., is a candidate for election to the Sanitary Board. Mr. Humphreys' father was a valued member of the same Board for eight years, and, we need hardly add, as he is so well-known, that the present candidate is following in his father's footsteps, having the same widespread interest in the Colony, and similar ability for all duties of an administrative nature.

We have already written of the candidature of Mr. A. Shelton Hooper, whose name has been very favourably received by the public. The election, as already announced, takes place at the City Hall on Monday, the 22nd inst. Ratepayers whose names appear on the 1905 jury lists (Special and Common) and ratepayers who are professionally exempt from such service, may vote, provided they can meet the extraordinary requirement of the Government, which is that they must prove their standing by producing the receipt for the rates paid by them for December. As it is very common for rates to be paid by the landlord in Hongkong, who recovers them in the form of rent this may lead to difficulties and disappointment. In England, the stipulation is that the voter must have paid "all rates not later than the 20th of July that became due on the 5th of January preceding," but in that case (household franchise) the landlord's payment on behalf of the tenant is recognised. The words "paid by him" in the local stipulation have raised fears that some may be disfranchised through a technicality. The Governor in Council has power to alter the schedule, and will no doubt see to it that no hardship is inflicted in this case.

There was no contest. Both candidates were formally proposed and elected to-day (22nd.)

THE SHANGHAI GENERAL CHAMBER OF COMMERCE.

Minutes of Committee Meeting held on January 5th:—

Present.—Messrs. W. D. Little (Chairman), C. Brodersen, H. G. Dowler, H. E. R. Hunter, J. N. Jameson, A. Korff, A. McLeod, J. Stern, and the Acting Secretary.

Huangpu Conservancy Board.—The Chairman drew attention to the appointment of certain officials to this Board, as rumoured in the press. It was decided to address the Senior Consul and ask him for any authentic information regarding the appointment of engineers.

Stocks of Copper.—Letter from the London Chamber is read asking for periodical returns, and the Secretary is instructed to communicate with them further on the subject and in the meantime to forward the Stocks of Copper on December 31st as compiled by the Chamber's half-yearly return.

Formation of a Chamber of Commerce at Newchwang.—A letter is received from the Newchwang Chamber advising that a General Chamber of Commerce has been formed and styled The Newchwang General Chamber of Commerce.

Telegraphic Communication with Newchwang.—A letter is read from the Newchwang Chamber pointing out the delay in the exchange of telegrams. The Secretary is instructed to interview the Manager of the Great Northern Telegraph Company and then communicate with the Newchwang Chamber.

After the transaction of some further business the meeting adjourns. The following correspondence is ordered for publication:—

Oxford Court, Cannon Street, London,
November 10th, 1905.

Dear Sir,—At the last meeting of the Council of this Chamber a letter was received from the London Metal Exchange asking that a formal request should be made by the London Chamber of Commerce to the Shanghai Chamber of Commerce for the compilation and periodical publication of data showing the imports and stocks of copper in the warehouses at Shanghai, to which request the Council willingly acceded.

The recent increase in the amount of copper imported into China from the United States of America, the Commonwealth of Australia, and the United Kingdom, with consequent accumulation of stocks at Shanghai and other Chinese ports, has rendered it most desirable that the information sought for should be available to those interested.

I have therefore been instructed to express the hope that your Chamber will have no objection to compile and publish the statistics mentioned.

I have the honour to remain,

Dear Sir,

Yours faithfully,

KENRIC B. MURRAY,
Secretary.

REAL ESTATE IN MANCHURIA.

There is something familiar and something unfamiliar in an advertisement now appearing in the press of North China. A Russian real estate office offers to let, on long or short leases, building lots for various enterprises, factories, warehouses, elevators, stores, apartment houses, private dwellings, wharves, and all other purposes.

All these lots are situated in Lower Harbin, Manchuria, alongside the Chinese Eastern Railway Company's Settlement, and have a separate water frontage on the Sungari River.

The Central Car Distributing Station of the Chinese Eastern Railway is situated about 1/2 to 1-1/2 kilometers from the above lots and it is intended to build a branch line, thus connecting directly the offered properties with the main line of the C.E. Ry. Part of the lots are surrounded by the small river Madago, which falls into the Sungari River.

The advertiser explains that there does not exist the same regulations as adopted by the management of the Chinese Eastern Railway for their settlement, that none but Russian or Chinese subjects can own real estate, build on same, or have any commercial enterprise.

ST. STEPHEN'S COLLEGE.

SCHOOL SPEECH DAY.

H.E. the Governor presided at the annual distribution of prizes at St. Stephen's College on January 12. Accompanied by his private secretary, Mr. R. A. B. Ponsonby, he arrived to time, and was received by the principal, Rev. E. J. Barnett, M. A. The cadets of the school were drawn up as a guard of honour along the entrance, and as His Excellency entered the gate they came to the salute, and when he passed, formed 'two deep' and marched behind him into the hall. His Excellency's military spirit must have been gratified by the discipline displayed by young China, and their machine-like precision in obeying commands.

In the hall, His Excellency was supported on the right by the Rev. E. J. Barnett, and on the left by the Venerable Archdeacon Bannister. Amongst those present were Dr. Ho Kai, Messrs. E. A. Irvine, Inspector of Schools, S. H. Piercey, principal of the Diocesan School W. D. Braidwood, head of the Ellis Kadoorie School, and many of the parents of the students.

After an opening prayer, the Rev. E. J. Barnett read the annual report, extracts from which are as follows:—

Your Excellency, Mr. Archdeacon, Ladies and Gentlemen.—To day we close our third year's work. The year has been one of activity, progress and interest. The number of scholars enrolled has exceeded that of past years. In 1903 the roll showed 33 in attendance, in 1904 there were 85, and this year the number reached 109. One of our senior scholars left for England in July last to prosecute his studies along lines not provided for in Hongkong. Others are about to follow his example. Such incidents naturally turn our thoughts to the necessity for providing a higher standard of education. True, in the past, Chinese young men, with few exceptions, have sought only that minimum amount of knowledge in English by which they might secure a higher financial return for their services. But there is a growing desire for a wider and deeper study of Western thought and knowledge. We may carry our boys through the Oxford senior examinations, or even beyond, but this will not meet the present demand. They require further knowledge in literature, in science, and in such subjects as would be taught in a good technical school. If we believe in the future of Hongkong, and in the salutary effects of British prestige and British influence imparted through education, it would be a wise policy to make some provision to meet this new demand. During the past year elementary science and trigonometry were added to our school curriculum, and arrangements have been made for commercial training and the teaching of chemistry (both theoretical and practical) during 1906. We have been requested to teach Latin and political economy also. This will be done if there are sufficient students to form a small class. Given the buildings, in a few years, we believe, the major portion of the current expenses of a university would be met by tuition. This year for the first time we sent up boys for the local Oxford examinations. The Dux of the College this year is Chan Kwan Lam, who has obtained the exceptionally high percentage of 92.3 marks upon his written papers. (Applause). The results on the whole have been very encouraging. The College Council wishes here to acknowledge its indebtedness to the master for the hearty and consistent manner in which they have united their efforts for the welfare of the College. But teaching staffs, no less than individuals, are creatures of change, and it is with much regret that we are called upon to say farewell to Mr. J. Lewis Byrne and Mr. Landmann, the latter being about to sail for Australia. Mr. Byrne, my personal friend for over a decade, has been with us for two years and a half. His chief charge has been the senior class, sparing himself neither in hours nor out of hours if there was anything he could do to help. The final examination results of Form IV. and Form II. bear gratifying evidence to the care bestowed upon them by Messrs Harkness and Mackenzie respectively. With Miss Fletcher, who has from the beginning so kindly given her services, we

deeply sympathize in her indisposition, and trust she soon may be fully restored to health. During Miss Fletcher's enforced absence, we have been fortunate in enjoying the temporary assistance of the Rev. Frank Child, who, being compelled to remain in Hongkong for a short time, generously came to our assistance. Mr. Ng Tin Po, assisted by Mr. Chau Kam Kai, has carried on the teaching of Chinese with care and diligence. The Preparatory School, opened in March last, has not been successful in point of numbers. This has been due, doubtless, to the inconvenient situation of the building. New premises have now been rented at 33, Caine Road, and Miss Garden has already removed the school thither, with the promise of additional pupils. A class for Chinese young ladies will also be formed in connection therewith. It is perhaps worthy of mention that we have been asked to establish, and maintain the oversight of, an Anglo-Chinese school in an important centre in the Kwong Tung province. A building has been offered with a guarantee of thirty scholars. To those friends of the College who have so generously contributed to the Prize Fund we tender our sincere thanks:—The Lord Bishop of Victoria, Dr. Ho Kai, C.M.G., Dr. Wan Tuen Mo, Dr. Coxon To, Messrs. S. W. Ts'o, Ts'o Tsz Kei, Lau Chin Ting, Wong Wing Ho, Hon Yung Kam, Chan Siu Kei, Chiu Fuug, Lo Cho Shan, Lo Bun Kei, Wei On, Fung Ku Shan, Wong Lai Lung, Cheng Wo Hin, Chan Kam Wing, Ng Po Kwan, Ng Pak To, Chan Oi Ting, Chan Hewan, Wee Chi Beck, Ho Ping Naam, Chan Kiang Ting, Yeung Yau Shing and Yau Shui Sz Nai. To the boys we wish a very happy New Year, and a re-invigorating holiday, after which we hope to see them again on Wednesday, February 14th, when classes will re-assemble. (Applause).

The prizes having been presented by His Excellency, he addressed those present as follows:—Mr. Archdeacon, Ladies and Gentlemen.—The report which Dr. Barnett read to us is on the whole satisfactory. He tells us there has been a marked improvement in the moral tone of the School, and also that the management is pleased with the result of the examinations. Several successes have been obtained in the junior and preliminary Oxford local examinations. I observe that as yet no student of St. Stephen's College has passed the higher Oxford local examination, but I hope that at next prize-giving there will be several successes in that section. The school continues to rapidly increase in numbers. When it was first formed on the February 23rd, 1903, there were seven pupils, and this year there has been 109 on the roll. I and others of us here are watching the progress of the school with great interest. It is, as you are aware, intended for the sons of Chinese gentlemen who can afford to pay higher fees than those collected at schools which have Government assistance, and what is far more important, who can afford to keep their boys longer at school than is necessary to obtain so much elementary education as will qualify them to earn some sort of livelihood as clerks in offices. The education given in the school is still elementary, but as the scholars advance no doubt provision will be made for higher instruction, and from the report read to us, we see that the necessity for such instruction is fully recognised by the management of the school. It has been made a reproach to the Colony that there is no secondary or advanced education given in it. I hope to see this reproach removed, and there seems no reason why, as regards literary education, St. Stephen's should not take a prominent part in advancing it. At Sierra Leone, a colony with which I was at one time and another a good deal connected, the Church Missionary Society had a college run somewhat on the lines of this one, which affiliated with the University of Durham, and which granted degrees. This seems to me to be a matter worthy of the consideration of the College Council and all supporters of the College—whether St. Stephen's should not aim at a like position (applause). If they intend to do this it might possibly be as well to concentrate their attention more exclusively to the higher education of boys. I don't quite understand why other schools under the Church Missionary Society should not serve as preparatory schools to St. Stephen's; I also don't quite understand

the idea of establishing a class for Chinese young ladies. It is true that the students of this College will naturally desire to marry educated girls, but it seems doubtful whether it is the part of the College to train those girls (laughter). I am only arguing against dispersion of effort, and on the same point of view I am not quite certain whether the College authorities should not confine their attention to the Colony itself, rather than devote part of it to an institution in China. The history of education in Hongkong has been a very varying one; many institutions have been started, and after running for a time with partial success, have failed for want of support. I attribute this largely to that dissipation of energy which I recommend the St. Stephen's College to avoid as far as possible. There is another direction in which I should suggest concentration of effort, and that is that it would seem desirable to confine instruction, at any rate for the present, to what are university subjects in contradistinction to commercial and technical education. The latter are excellent things, but I doubt if the master and present staff are to instruct in them as well as in literary subjects, whether the proficiency gained in those literary subjects would be as large as if they confined their attention to them. I don't for one moment under-rate the value of commercial education, but am inclined to think it may be provided otherwise in other places. I will repeat the information which I gave at another prize-giving—that the Government have in consideration the establishment of an evening continuation class to be held at Queen's College, but open to all. Instruction will be given in commercial and technical subjects, and it will be for the consideration of the College whether to send to this class those boys who are destined by their parents to a commercial or engineering career. It now only remains for me to thank Dr. Barnett for his interesting and lucid report; to express satisfaction at the number of people who have come to see the prize-giving, and to present to the already over-charged dux of the school a further special prize (applause).

Archdeacon Bannister said the duty devolved upon him, as representing the governing body of the College, in the absence of His Lordship the Bishop, to express to His Excellency their grateful thanks for his presence and the real interest he had taken in the institution since its establishment. He would further express their thankfulness for the kind remarks the Governor made to them, and for the advice tendered. The establishment of the College had been from the beginning in the nature of an experiment, but it had received a cordial, warm, earnest and helpful sympathy from Chinese gentlemen, many of whom were present, and as already pointed out in the report, they wished to combine education with the highest possible moral ideals. The speaker then told the boys of the highest possible ideal expressed by one of their countrymen, an ancient sage and teacher, and in conclusion asked friends and students to accord to His Excellency their warmest sympathy and thanks by acclamation.

Three cheers were then given for the Governor, three for the Venerable Archdeacon and three more for Dr. Barnett, the principal.

ELLIS KADOORIE CHINESE SCHOOLS' SOCIETY.

INTERESTING TOUR BY THE GOVERNOR.

At the Hongkong College of this Society on Jan. 15th, His Excellency the Governor distributed the prizes won by students for the year's work. The cadets were drawn up as a guard of honour, and welcomed him on arrival with a salute. Amongst others present were Mr. and Mrs. Ellis Kadoorie, Mr. and Mrs. W. D. Braidwood, Messrs. D. Nicol, J. Walker, E. J. Moses, E. C. Lewis, Lau Chu Pak, Fung Wa Chun, Fung Shan Shan, Ho Kom Tong, Choi Tsz Yik, Lam Shan Ping, Ip Lau Chuen, Revs. E. J. Barnett and H. R. Wells, and Mesdames Gainer, Ezra, Petrie, Pearce, Allnutt, Woodcock, Bryson and Chapman.

Mr. W. D. Braidwood, principal, read the annual report as follows:—

Your Excellency, Mr. President, ladies and gentlemen, it gives me much pleasure to present

to you the fifth annual report of the Society's Hongkong College. For grant-in-aid purposes, the school year ends on June 30th and on the 9th of that month we had a surprise visit and examination by Mr. E. A. Irving, Inspector of Schools. His opinion of the condition of the school at that time is voiced in the following statement:—

INSPECTOR'S ANNUAL REPORT FOR 1904-05.

Discipline and Organisation.—The school has grown so much during the past year, that some increase to the European staff seems required. Many of the Chinese masters are insufficiently acquainted with modern methods of teaching, but the Head Master's time is so largely occupied with teaching that he has little left in which to advise and correct them. I do not think the organization is likely to be thoroughly satisfactory until the services of another trained English master are obtained. Discipline on the whole is very good. Work sent up for examination should be done neatly on foolscap paper. The school has made good progress during the year.

Sanitation.—Satisfactory. The buildings are not well adapted to accommodate the present large numbers. But there is no danger of insufficient ventilation.

Apparatus.—Very satisfactory except as regards local maps in the lower classes.

English Colloquial.—A considerable improvement has been made in the lower classes as compared with last year. But the result is not yet all that can be desired. The boys in the two top classes speak very well.

Reading.—The readers used are suitable. Reading is well taught.

Writing.—Class I. A. and B. did compositions which, taking the class as a whole, were very good. Two of them were excellent. They might, however, do even better, if they would give more attention to the matter; some of them erred on the side of brevity. The composition in Class II. was "fair to poor." This is not surprising, remembering how badly these boys spoke English last year (see last Annual Report). This case is a good instance to show how difficult it is to learn to write a language without ability to speak it. Composition is, on the whole, well taught in the lower classes.

Geography.—An easy paper on Asia set to the top classes was well done; on the whole, though, in a somewhat slovenly and untidy fashion. The art of illustrating answers by sketch maps should be practised. Fuller answers are expected from Classes I. and II. Local geography is now taught in the lower classes. The Chinese masters require assistance in selecting the facts to be taught. For example, in Class II. boys who knew the names of every little promontory around the Island, were yet ignorant of the position and uses of Taitam Reservoir.

History.—The course laid down by the Committee on history and geography is being followed. The subject is being taught thoroughly; but unfortunately the text books have been in the hands of the scholars for a month or two only, not sufficiently long to enable me to form a definite opinion as to the rate of progress.

Hygiene.—The Hygiene reader has been begun and is being well studied as a reader. The Head Master has not found it practicable to illustrate the lessons by practical experiments, which is a pity.

Chinese.—Is very good throughout the school. A difficult piece of translation from English into Chinese was well done in the top class.

Arithmetic.—In the top class very good work was done at examination. The second class on the other hand did not do well. Arithmetic may, however, be considered a strong subject throughout the school. The following two points should be borne in mind: (a) answers to money problems should be given in pounds, shillings and pence, or in dollars and cents, and not in fractions of a pound or dollar; (b) the unitary methods should be more frequently used in the solution of problems.

Grant.—I recommend a grant at the rate of 30%.

In the opening paragraph of his report, Mr. Irving puts his finger on the weak spot of our system—the ignorance of modern methods of teaching shown by our Anglo-Chinese masters. Now there are two ways in which this defect may be remedied. (1) By the establishment of a Training College for such

masters, or (2) by the Principal of each school or college training the Anglo-Chinese members of his own staff. In the absence of the former, the latter appears to be the only alternative and if it is to be successful the Principal must, to a certain extent, be relieved of other duties, that he may have the necessary time to devote to this object. Recognising this, the Council of this Society is now engaging the services of another trained English Master and we expect him to arrive shortly. As regards the lack of local maps in the lower classes, I would direct attention to the fact that good, reliable wall maps of Hongkong and the adjoining provinces of Kwang-tung and Kwang-si cannot be got in the Colony. An effort has been made to follow the course laid down by the Committee in History and Geography. The History book prescribed, Meyer's General History, is an excellent text-book, but would be more suitable for class teaching were it sub-divided. The subject might then be commenced in Class III. instead of in Class II., as at present. Hygiene, as a class subject, was taken up as soon as the manual, published by direction of the Government, was procurable, and has constituted a part of the regular curriculum since the first lesson was given on March 17th, 1905. Experience suggests the advisability of having the manual translated into Chinese for use in the lower classes. The Shield and Prizes offered for competition in this subject by your Excellency were great incentives to study, and in addition to a team for the Elementary course, we entered five competitors for the Senior course. The results were not encouraging, but prove conclusively that a team composed solely of Chinese boys and writing a foreign language cannot hope to compete successfully against other teams composed solely, or in part, of English-speaking students. Following the usual precedent the Head Master's annual examination was held in December. As in former years, the bulk of the English papers in the upper classes were corrected by Messrs. Hamilton and Scott, while the translations were examined and marked by Mr. Fung, the senior Anglo-Chinese assistant. Stated concisely the results were as follows:—Reading, 99 per cent.; dictation, 6.75 per cent.; arithmetic, 61.03 per cent.; English composition, 75.12 per cent.; English colloquial, 90.62 per cent.; geography, 86.80 per cent.; grammar, 79.18 per cent.; science, 97.77 per cent.; translation (English to Chinese), 94.87 per cent.; translation (Chinese to English), 91.53 per cent.; history, 90 per cent.; mensuration, 65.55 per cent.; mathematics, 47.21 per cent.; hygiene, 97.43 per cent. Compared with last year's results there is a decided improvement in eight subjects, viz., reading, dictation, English colloquial, geography, science, translations and history, while in the remaining subjects the percentage is somewhat lower. The high percentage of passes in translations from English to Chinese and vice versa is due to the fact that this subject is now confined to the upper classes. The Library, the inception of which I mentioned in my last annual report, has been largely taken advantage of, more especially by the senior boys, to many of whom, I am pleased to say, it is proving a source of pleasure and profit. Some few additions were made to it in the course of last year, but more books, of a juvenile character, are wanted for the younger pupils. In October last physical exercises and simple military drill were added to the curriculum as a voluntary subject, and 170 boys elected to take the course. For a month these were under native instructors, but it was thought advisable to adopt the English system, and since November 1st, Master Gunner P. Gainher, R.A., has been in charge. Under his firm but kindly discipline a marked improvement is already observable in their carriage and appearance. Owing to the restricted area on which the school is built no adequate space is available for purposes of drill, and we are much indebted to our Vice-President, Mr. Fung Wa Chun, who kindly offered the use of part of his grounds at 'Altiora' for this purpose. In 1903-4 when the school was first placed under the Government grant-in-aid scheme the average annual attendance was 185.88 and the amount of grant earned \$3,112. For 1904-5 the average annual attendance was 268.75 and the grant earned \$4,283, being an increase of

82.87, or nearly 45 per cent. in attendance, and \$1,171 or nearly 38 per cent. in grant earned. Since the end of the school year, June 30th, 1905, the average attendance to date is 297.21. As our school buildings are too small to accommodate the numbers seeking admission the Council resolved to make an addition to the existing premises. Plans were prepared and the Government approached through the Educational Dept. with the object of securing a building grant. In this we were successful and building operations began on Sept. 22nd, and should nothing untoward occur we hope the work will be finished in May of the present year. When completed we will have a covered play-ground, a large examination hall, and three additional class rooms. This will enable us to accommodate 300 more pupils, or 60% in all. The total cost will be about \$15,000 and of this amount the Government has, I understand, agreed to pay \$7,000. The system by which pupils are rewarded for regular attendance by being exempted from payment of fees meets with increased success, for whereas in 1904 only 14 boys made the possible number of attendances, in 1905 86 had no absent mark recorded against them, while 76 have made 200 or more attendances out of a possible 213. The competitions in connection with the Bellios Trust Fund No. 2 were resuscitated in 1905 and in the examination held on April 27th Lau In Chung tied for 4th place. The Blake Scholarship of \$50 has again been won by Lau Chung, but as it is tenable for 1 year only, it falls to the second boy, Lai Ki Hong, who was but 11 marks behind his successful rival. For the Ho Kam Tong Scholarship (junior) the contest was so keen that a second and more difficult paper in translation had to be set. The measure of success and progress which has attended the school work is due in no small degree to the support I have received from the staff, and the keen interest taken in the welfare of the school by the members of Council, more especially the President and Hon. Secretary. I am pleased to have this opportunity of thanking them all for their hearty co-operation. In addition to the Directors of the Tung Wah Hospital and the Committee of the Po Leung Kuk, we are much indebted to the large number of gentlemen, over 50, who have so liberally contributed to our Scholarship and Prize Fund. Time will not permit me to mention their names here, but we are deeply sensible of their kindness, and of the practical way in which they have shown their interest in, and sympathy with, our educational work.

Several of the students then displayed their abilities as elocutionists, and at the conclusion of this part of the programme His Excellency presented the prizes. He then addressed those present as follows:—Ladies and Gentlemen—This school, while maintaining a satisfactory standard of efficiency, is rapidly increasing in numbers and importance. The attendance here is one of the best of any of the educational establishments in the Colony, and I hope it goes on as it is at present, and that before I leave Hongkong I will see an attendance of 600 students. It has given me much satisfaction to recommend to the Secretary of State that a large building grant should be given to the school to provide for this attendance, and my recommendation has been approved by Mr. Lyttelton (applause). I am glad the management has recognised the necessity, pointed out by the Inspector of Schools, of adding to the European staff and to the instructional course, and I would point out that if the school desires to maintain its present standard of efficiency, and at the same time to constantly increase its number, it would be well for the strength of the teaching staff to be kept rather above than below the requirements of the moment (applause).

HIS EXCELLENCY addressing the scholars, said:—Boys—I hope you as well as the masters have listened very carefully to the weak points in your work that were pointed out by the Inspector of Schools, and will do your best next term to improve in these subjects. I do not propose to dwell any more on these weak points to-day, but I shall try to interest you on the same subject as I spoke about last year—that is, the study of geography. Those of you who were here then will remember that I said one of the easiest ways of learning geography was to read books of travel. Another pleasant

way is to listen to lectures by people who have travelled. I cannot claim myself to have been a great traveller, but duty and pleasure sent me to some out of the way parts of the world, and I propose this morning to try and interest you by an account of a journey I made fifteen years ago. I was then stationed at a place called Karachi in the west of India, and engaged making plans for a new fortification. Karachi is one of the six defended ports of India, and also, next to Calcutta and Bombay, the leading commercial place. Its commerce largely depends on the exporting of grain which is grown in the Sind and in the North Western provinces. It has some connection with Hongkong because it is the headquarters of the Baluchi regiments, and one of them is now here. It is a very hot place, and my principal recollection of it is the sand that one saw everywhere around it. I am told now that by the planting of trees and the making of gardens it has been made a more pleasant place, but I was glad to get away from it. I took steamer and went to Muscat on the north east coast of Arabia. This place has what is called a landlocked harbour, that is to say, it has rocky hills on every side, which nearly meet at the entrance, and this is very narrow; the water inside is not much disturbed in case of storms. On these rocky hills there were old Arab forts, and in them I saw a great many quaint guns. One big cannon had on it the arms of Philip II. of Spain who lived in the fifteenth century. There were three brass guns given by George III. at the commencement of the nineteenth century, and some recent American "notions" in the way of artillery. At the back of the harbour the town rises on the low hills, and the streets are very narrow and dirty; the place altogether is not a particularly agreeable one to stay at, owing to the intense heat. Nevertheless, it was the headquarters for a long time of a small British naval force which in old days was intended to suppress the pirates. They were then nearly as plentiful as they are in some of the Chinese rivers, but now they are all suppressed. A gunboat is generally kept there, however, and on the rocks the sailors have painted up in white the names of the boats which have been there. From Muscat I crossed the coast of Persia to a place called Bunder Abbas, named after the Shah, Abbas I., a very great ruler who lived about the same time as Philip II. and the English Queen Elizabeth. That was the time when Ivan the Terrible was Emperor of Russia and Akbar, the Great Mogul, ruled all Delhi. Shah Abbas, the King of Persia, is very well remembered there now. He did a lot of good to the country, and put up many important buildings. All along the South of Persia one comes across what are called "rest houses" for caravans. They consist of vaulted chambers which run round a square, and in the middle of the square the ponies, horses, mules and other animals of the caravan are tethered. In the vaulted chambers the travellers rest. There is no furniture in them and they are quite open on one side, but that does not matter much in a hot country. I generally found it most pleasant to go to sleep in the open air on the roof, to which I had access by stone steps at the four corners of the square. Bunder Abbas is at the entrance to the Persian Gulf close to the Island of Ormuz. I went to see the latter in a boat, because it was a place I had often heard of. From four to five hundred years ago it was one of the most important places in Asia. It was, as it were, the Hongkong of Asia—the great distributing centre. This was in the days before ships went round the Cape of Good Hope, and the goods of Europe were first of all collected at places in the Mediterranean, of which the most important was Venice, then taken across the Mediterranean and across Asiatic territory to Damascus and Bagdad, or else across Persia and distributed in India and even China. In consequence of this, many merchants settled at Ormuz and became wealthy. The place was so wealthy that long after, when people wanted to talk of wealth they referred to Ormuz. In his great poem "Paradise Lost," Milton described the throne of Satan, and wishing to explain how rich it was in gold and precious jewels said—

"In it centred all the wealth of Ormuz and of Ind."

Ormuz went down very soon after the discovery of the route to the East via the Cape. That was made at the end of the fifteenth century by Vasco da Gama, about whom Camoens wrote in his poems called "The Lusiads," which were partly written at Macao, a place you all know. A statue of Camoens is erected there now to celebrate the fact of his having lived there, and of his journey round the Cape. This journey very soon destroyed the commercial position of Ormuz, and the Portuguese, in order that the goods should no longer go overland, but round the Cape, took Ormuz from the Persians. They built a big castle there, which is all that remains of the place except a few ruins. From Ormuz I went to another place on the Persian coast called Lina. While walking through the town I came to an open space round which a great number of people were assembled. I noticed they were watching a man on horseback who was giving a recitation, assisted by other men who were dressed up in armour and carried spears. I learned that this was a miracle play, that is, a play representing some event holy to the Persians. This event was connected with the death of two relations of the prophet Mahomet who were killed in the same century as the prophet lived, and their death is still lamented by a great section of the Mahomedans. The Mahomedans are divided into two sects, the Sunnites and the Shiites, but the difference between them is difficult to appreciate when one is not a Mahomedan. The Sunnites believe in the first of the three Khalifs, while the Shiites believe that they were not rightful Khalifs. From Lina I crossed to the other side of the Gulf and reached a place called Behring which is celebrated for its pearl fisheries. The natives, Persians and Arabs, dive from ships to the bottom of the sea and bring up the shells containing the oysters from which the pearls are extracted. There is also in Behring the ruins of a Portuguese castle, but the thing which most strikes travellers is the way they get fresh water there. There is very little on the island, but in the middle of the sea a spring comes right up from the bottom, and divers go through the salt water to the bottom, and get the fresh water. From Behring I returned to the Persian side, and next arrived at Bushire. This is mostly known to English people as the headquarters of the expedition which visited Persia at the end of the last century. At that time the English were very much afraid that the French would get to India through Persia, so there were constant embassies and wars to get Persia under our hands. Nowadays we don't fear France, but know that Russia has a design on that country. At Bushire I left the ship and started inland by caravan. The road was small, but my pony took me 20 miles a day. I had mules for my servants. We started in intense heat, but after three days' travelling up country the weather got cooler and cooler. Every day we travelled over rocky country, stopping at light in an oasis. We passed out of the neighbourhood of the palm trees into cultivated valleys of wheat and peas, and on the fourth day arrived at Sheraz which is celebrated first of all for its gardens, then for its beads. A Persian garden consists of a square place surrounded by a wall and filled up with rose and orange trees; while down the centre run rivulets of water. The great poets of Persia are entombed in Sheraz, and all Persians who go there pay a visit to their tombs; and so do all Europeans. A story is told that a Mahomedan reader always attends at the grave of Hafiz in order to read one of his poems. The story is told by an English ambassador who spoke Persian. He visited the grave with others, and when those who did not understand Persian wished to leave before he had read the poem he said—"No, make them stop. When I recite, even if they don't understand I will make them." He did so by very careful intonation and gesticulation, although they could not understand the words. That shows how a recitation ought really to be given. Well, I think it would tire you if I went on to tell you more about my journey, so I will close my remarks and give to the boy most proficient in geographical studies the best English version of the travels of an Italian who lived 500 years ago and made the journey overland from Europe to China. In this connection he

was supposed at the time to have exaggerated tremendously, so much so that his friends called him the 'man of millions,' because he was always talking of the millions of people and things he saw. Modern research has shown, however, that Marco Polo was a very accurate and observant traveller.

Mr. Braidwood briefly thanked His Excellency for his kindness in attending to distribute the prizes and the boys gave him three ringing cheers.

DIOCESAN SCHOOL AND ORPHANAGE.

HIS EXCELLENCY ON HISTORY.

There was a large gathering at this School on Jan. 16 to witness H.E. the Governor distribute the prizes won by pupils. Amongst others present were the Venerable Archdeacon Bannister, Rev. F. T. Johnson, Mr. E. A. Irvine, Inspector of Schools, Rev. E. J. Barnett, Messrs E. A. Hewett, W. D. Braidwood and Ho Kom Tong.

Mr. G. H. Piercey, Head Master, read the annual report which stated:—

We are thankful to say that the year 1905 was characterised by good health, steady work and harmonious co-operation. The same teachers remained with us, and an additional trained master was added in the person of Mr. Hall, who arrived from England in August, being the third teacher added in three years. After four years' good work, Mr. Brawn was granted furlough from March 30th to October 10th. While all have worked well, taken an interest in the success of the School and shown *esprit de corps*, it is not invidious to acknowledge that Mr. Sykes' help has been simply invaluable as second master. In May Miss Armour took the place of Miss Austen as assistant matron. The total enrolment of scholars for the year was 288; the average attendance was 195 (last year 188), the school days 232. During the last few years the number of absentees has been much smaller. After a ten years' interval the Belilios Trustees in April offered 5 medals and prizes for public competition by not more than 5 candidates from any one School. Our boys won the first three prizes, viz.:—T. Loft, silver medal and \$3; W. Drude, bronze medal and \$20; H. G. Brandt, \$20. In July 23 boys entered for the Oxford Local Examination; 17 passed, being our highest record, viz., 2 seniors, 8 juniors, 7 preliminary. H. G. Brandt was placed in honours in the junior. In October Wen Ho-lok won an open Belilios Scholarship at the Hongkong College of Medicine, and has begun his studies at the Alice Memorial Hospital. After School reopened in March, two subjects were added to the curriculum. Drawing was taught to the three lower standards as affording excellent training in form and colour, and is very popular with the little boys. Hygiene was taught to all boys from Standards III. to VII. In connection with the hygiene examinations generously instituted by H.E. the Governor, a "team" entered for the elementary stage, and although not successful in carrying off the handsome shield we intend to try again. A number entered for the advanced stage and with better success, as W. Drude won the second prize, \$50. To meet what appeared to be a need, we began to teach Latin after the summer holidays. The Inspector visited the School in December and examined some of the classes. In his report he classes the School as very efficient, and awards the highest grant allowed by the Code. The Rev. F. T. Johnson examined Standards VII.-III. in Holy Scripture, and I examined the first and second standards. I held an examination throughout the school in all subjects at the close of each half-year, and am satisfied that good work is being done in all classes. A Chinese gentleman, Mr. Ho Kom Tong, has munificently placed \$1,000 in the hands of the Committee, that the interest may be given every year as a scholarship to the first boy, and in order that it may begin this year Mr. Ho Kom Tong has added \$60 for the first scholarship. As in former years, careful attention has been given to physical exercise. The boys have drill twice a week when the drill instructor's military duties will allow. In summer there was sea bathing and swimming, and the season was closed by aquatic sports and a

picnic by launch, kindly lent by Mr. Osborne, to whom our thanks are also due for the loan of a launch for the Boxing Day excursion, when the boys and their sisters and friends from the Diocesan Girls' School had games and races at Lai Chi Kok, towards the cost of which Mr. Sullivan, of Amoy, again kindly contributed. The boys remaining during the summer holidays were, through Mr. Bowley's kindness, taken by tram to see Harms-ton's Circus and Menagerie. A very pleasant evening was spent with the gramophone kindly lent by Mrs. Gomes. The Bishop last year offered prizes for cricket and tennis competitions between this School and St. Stephen's College, but the latter declined to play. Our football team has, under Mr. Brawn's fostering care, not lost a match this season; in cricket we have only played one match and won it against the Chinese Y.M.C.A. Advantage was taken of the annual overhaul in the summer holidays to introduce improved methods of ventilation in the school-rooms and dormitories, and an English cooking range with hot water service, instead of the old-fashioned Chinese kitchen. A new box-room was enclosed in the covered playground: two class-rooms were enlarged by removal of party walls; and a wire fence put on the tennis court to protect neighbouring Government windows. Our thanks are again due to Messrs. Palmer and Turner for superintending these improvements, and to the following gentlemen for providing prizes: Hon. Mr. T. S. Smith, Hon. Mr. Wei Yuk, Rev. F. T. Johnson, Messrs. L. Arnold, F. B. L. Bowley, T. Edwards (Canton), Fung Wa Chuen, E. A. Hewett, Ho Fook, Ho Tung, and Sin Tak-fan.

HIS EXCELLENCY then distributed the prizes after which he said:—Mr. Johnson, Ladies and Gentlemen—I find, as is curiously enough often the case, that the report of the Head Master is somewhat more favourable than that of the Inspector of Schools; but while Mr. Irvine pointed out the various weak points to which, I am sure the instructional staff will give attention, he stated that the work and management of the school could not be considered otherwise than very efficient. This is very satisfactory, as are also the successes of the boys in the Oxford Local Examinations, the Bellios Scholarship, and in the advanced course of hygiene. I note with satisfaction that the numbers have increased, and that the attendance is more regular; also that the strength of the teaching staff is being kept up. This is very important, especially in view of the curriculum having been extended, and I think it is well that I should repeat the word of warning which I gave at St. Stephen's College, that the management should bear in mind that knowledge is better measured by depth than by extent of area.

Turning to the students, HIS EXCELLENCY said:—Boys—You will remember that at last prize-giving I spoke to you about history, and explained how a scaffolding of dates and facts derived from a school course was helpful to a subsequent comprehension of the world's interesting stories. I gave you then two sketches to show how the growth and civilization of a nation could be traced down the centuries. On this occasion I think I may be able to interest you by a sketch drawn in another way. Instead of following the story down the course of time I will try to give you a rough picture of the state of the world at a particular period of its existence. This may help you to the practice which I always follow when reading of events which happened long ago, and trying to picture to myself the events which happened at the same time in other countries. The period I propose to talk about is the year 500 before the Christian era, that is 24 centuries ago. It will help you to understand the remoteness of this period if you think that since then some 75 generations of persons have lived and died. At that time China consisted of some twenty-two states in and around the valley of the Yellow River, corresponding approximately to the northern part of the eighteen provinces of to-day. These states were subject to the state of the dynasty of Chow, and were at war with each other and a prey to internal disorder. This was very unsatisfactory compared to their condition in previous dynasties, and especially to the times of Yao and Shun. Two great political philosophers were preaching in China in the year we are considering. Lao Tzu's doctrines, as they are

now understood, aimed at stopping the existing disorder by teaching a way of life which was to lead man no longer to desire the things which excited their passions and so led to war and rapine, while the clearer aim of Confucius was to re-establish order on the basis of controlling men's actions by making them loyal and obedient to the constituted authorities of the Emperor, the state and the family. The stability and strength of China is a splendid result of the practical aims of Confucius. Lao Tzu's intelligible doctrines gradually became perverted into Taoism, as we know it, and ceased to be an element of good. To the south west of China, and separated from it by vast tracts of wild and mountainous country inhabited by barbarous Tartar and Tibetan tribes another ancient civilisation, consisting of some 16 kingdoms, crept in and over all the valley of the Ganges. This was the people of India, who were then, as now, separated into sharply defined castes or classes, but differing from the Chinese in the greater power wielded by the priest and the higher position held by the warriors. In one of these states—that of Magadha—at the time we are considering, there was a young prince who had relinquished wealth and the pleasures of life to teach that all castes were really equal and the desirability of abandoning the joys of life in order to combat its evils and be free from them in a future existence. He opposed the priests of Brahminism, and succeeded in diminishing the influence of their strange gods. Of course, much later Buddhism was brought to China, and it is there where its beautiful principles became altered beyond recognition. At the time Buddha preached in the valley of the Ganges and the valley of the Indus, a great river in the north west of India came under the Persians who were then at the climax of their greatness under King Darius I. Shortly before they had absorbed the ancient Kingdom of Media, to which they were subordinate. They also established themselves in the two valleys of the Tigris and the Euphrates which then flowed by separate courses into the Persian Gulf, and ruled Babylon and Ninevah, which 2,000 years previously had alternately been the magnificent capitals of Western Asia. With Babylonia Judea, from which a large part of its inhabitants had been removed by "The Great Captivity" in the previous century had passed under the Persians who also had occupied several countries in what is now called Turkey in Asia, of which the principal was Lydia, whose king, Croesus, is known by his proverbial riches. The Persians, in this year—500 B.C.—were masters of all the country round the Persian Gulf. They had succeeded in obtaining a footing in Africa by the conquest of Egypt where some thirty dynasties of Pharaohs had for at least 2,500 years before B.C. 500 ruled over a highly civilized people in the fertile valley and delta where the Nile flows through green fields of grain, bounded by the amber-coloured hills of the desert. They had also attempted, and to some extent successfully, to obtain a footing in Europe where Thrace and Macedonia in Greece had become tributary to them. But already in 500 B.C. had commenced the revolt of the Greeks against Persian authority, which resulted, within the fifty years that followed, in the overthrow of the Persians at the battles of Marathon on land and Salamis at sea. The Greeks, though at the head of no great empire were then approaching their brief period of artistic and literary brilliance which more than any other epoch of a nation's history has influenced the world's civilization. Some time previously they had established colonies in the South of Italy, destined ultimately, with Greece itself, to pass under the dominion of Rome. In the year 500 B.C. Rome set about to expel her kings, commence the absorption of the elementary Italian civilization and start on that period of slow growth, which to a nation, like a plant or animal, betokens future long life and strength. The rest of Europe was mostly covered with forest, sparsely inhabited by wild tribes of skin-clad and painted barbarians. Of the people I have mentioned the Chinese represented the yellow, or Mongolian; the remainder the three families of the white or Caucasian race. All of these had written languages. The Chinese differed slightly in form from that now used by the vast population

of China. Hebrew, Greek and Latin, much as they were then, are now studied by some millions of people who seek inspiration in the dead languages of Judea, Greece and Rome. The hieroglyphics of the Egyptians, and the arrow-headed writings of the Assyrians, Babylonians and Persians is now only understood by a few scholars who have helped to reconstruct them. In addition, the ancient nations of the year, 500 B.C. were proficient in arts as well as in literature. China, it is true, has never succeeded in achieving those beautiful and lasting triumphs of work which, at the period I mention, had been achieved by more western nations. It was, however, very little later than 300 B.C. that the beautiful palace of Persepolis, of which ruins still exist, was constructed in Persia, and the remains of palaces in Babylonia and Syria date from still earlier times, as do also the temples of Egypt which now attract visitors to the Nile. In Greece the simpler Doric style had already been developed, and the world's greatest masterpieces were soon to be cut from stone in that land. From the writings of China, the wall-paintings of Egypt and the bas-reliefs of Assyria and Babylonia we know that the chase, music and the cultivation of flowers were looked upon by these people as among the wholesome pleasures of life, and the triumph of good over evil was the ruling principle of religion. Into the details of these matters I don't propose to go, but I hope I have been able to interest you in this picture, and make you understand what a help it is to be able to look round the world at some particular period of history and realise how people then lived. I now propose to follow the precedent of last year, and present to the scholar who has taken the most advantage of his historical studies a special prize (applause).

Mr. Piercey informed His Excellency that that scholar was John Crolens, who was presented with the prize amid the hearty cheering of his schoolmates.

HIS EXCELLENCY then said it did not seem quite fair that the boys should get all the prizes and the masters none. He therefore had much pleasure in giving Mr. Piercey a souvenir of this prize-giving (renewed cheering).

The Rev. F. T. Johnson thanked His Excellency for his kindness in attending to distribute the prizes. In the head of His Majesty's Government here they had an interested and sympathetic critic and such criticism as they were accustomed to hear from him could only good. He also wished to thank Mr. Piercey and staff and Mrs. Piercey and Miss Armour for work done during the year. He asked the Governor to present the Ho Kom Tong scholarship to the winner—William Drude.

This His Excellency did, after which considerable cheering took place, and the proceedings closed with the singing of the National Anthem.

ELLIS KADOORIE SCHOOL AT CANTON.

REPROOF AND WARNING TO IMMATURE REPUBLICANS.

The annual prize-giving of the Canton branch of the Ellis Kadoorie Chinese Schools' Society took place on the 12th January. There were present Messrs. Ellis Kadoorie, Ho Kom Tong, Lau Chu Pak (Secretary), Mr. Nichol (Master in charge), and many other supporters and friends.

Mr. Ho Kom Tong, whose duty it was to distribute the prizes, expressed regret at the absence of the late Head-master, Mr. Kirkhope, who had done so much for the School prior to his enforced departure. The report of the Acting Head-master was on the whole satisfactory; if the examination results were not so good as previous ones, it was not due to want of effort by the teaching staff; and their warmest thanks were due to Mr. Nichol and his assistants. The high number of scholars enrolled showed that their good work was appreciated; but the irregular attendance was a very unsatisfactory feature. He would impress upon the boys the necessity of regular habits if they wished to

needed. For the sake of each individual as well as for all, he hoped the full number of attendances would be made, not by 25 only, but by 250. He closed with the following piece of advice. "I have noticed of late," he said, "a tendency on the part of certain young men to devour indiscriminately all sorts of literature, and to follow blindly the precepts inculcated therein. I warn you against such baneful influence. Mere reading is not knowledge. As Solomon says 'Get knowledge, but above all get understanding.' You must, therefore, think over and understand what you read; and, understanding, you must not attempt to achieve that for which you are not well equipped. You cannot run before you can walk. What you ought to do is to strive to improve yourselves morally, mentally and physically. Let your study be prosecuted with diligence and perseverance; let your ideal be of an elevating character; and let your conduct be guided by the dictates of your own conscience. With such materials, as it were, you can build a strong foundation upon which you may rear an edifice towering and lasting."

After the prizes were presented, Mr. LAU CHU PAK, on behalf of the committee of the Ellis Kadoorie Chinese Schools' Society, thanked Mr. Ho Kom Tong for the trouble he had taken, and especially for presenting such a munificent scholarship. As a stimulant to education on Western lines, his example was worthy the emulation of his compatriots. After compliments to the audience, and praise to Mr. Nichol, the speaker addressed the boys as follows: "It is beyond doubt that recently a peculiar and, I may say, harmful, idea has been instilled into young heads like yours. You are yet too young and too raw to form opinions on things around you. In your way of thinking and calculations, I know that some of you fancy that you have grown wise and old enough to be called men. Supposing they were, it is still their bounden duty to rightly and properly guide those who are not so wise and old as themselves. They must not, in order to serve their evil ends or simply for the sake of mischief, lead the younger ones out of the path of righteousness. It is a sin to impose upon the ignorant and abuse the innocent mind. That a good teacher cannot do as much as a good schoolmate in modelling the character of a boy is only too true. Now almost every day the words freedom and independence are between your lips. What do lads of your age know about these two words? It is all very well for some people to constantly cry for freedom and independence, and they even say they insist on having it at whatever cost. I wonder if these people themselves thoroughly and clearly understand what it means. By freedom and independence, I hear, they mean that every man, no matter to what station of life he belongs, is at liberty to do everything in his own way without restriction or opposition. If so, I shall say they talk about what they do not understand and raise an outcry for that which has never been existent and can never exist. In no country, civilized or otherwise, is perfect freedom and independence enjoyed or allowed to any person. Even the most powerful nation cannot do a thing without complying with the laws of the nations. Freedom of action must be restricted to a certain area, beyond which it is dangerous to allow it to go. Before unrestricted and unopposed freedom and independence, nothing for the welfare of mankind can exist; Government, family, society, peace and order will all be disorganized and wiped off, thereby reducing men to the level of beasts. Even the savages are subject to the rules of their tribe. Confucius says 'those who ignore propriety should be excommunicated.' What is propriety? It is one of the many restrictions of freedom and independence, the observation of which makes a good son, a good husband, a good father and a good citizen. The United States is the only country called the 'Land of Freedom,' and yet the people there, including the President himself, do not enjoy freedom and independence in an unlimited form. Their actions are restricted as in any other country, and this is essential for the maintenance of good fellowship and good citizenship. The question of the day, I am rather of opinion, is whether the restrictions of the freedom and independence of the Chinese ought not to be slackened and modified. They should not

all be condemned without a careful comparison with those of other people and without regard to the conditions of our country. Where there is room for improvement and modification, consider maturely, take systematic action, and do not risk things indiscriminately. Those who are, or, who suppose themselves, competent to take the lead to effect the necessary improvements should mark out their lines and submit before the public their suggestions with full comparative details. If such suggestions are really sensible and better than what is existing, I am sure their countrymen will adopt them. But, my young friends, as students, it is not your business to talk politics of this kind. You should avail yourself of every opportunity now before you to train your mind, increase your knowledge and cultivate your habits. Your future career is entirely in your own hands. Do not allow yourself to be led astray by mistaken ideas while you have not the experience and knowledge to judge for yourselves, or you will never become useful and good citizens. There is always a time and way for everything. Whenever you imagine or feel that the restrictions imposed on your conduct at home or in school are too hard, which are, by the way, all intended for your good, make yourselves sure of it first and then set to work to have it removed in a gentle, reasonable and proper manner. A rebellious and arrogant attitude, which I notice is every day becoming conspicuous amongst boys of your age, will not help matters."

The proceedings closed with much cheering.

BELILIOS PUBLIC SCHOOL.

CHINESE AND WESTERN KNOWLEDGE.

His Excellency the Governor presided at the annual prize distribution of this school held on Jan. 21. There were also present Messrs. E. A. Irvine, Inspector of Schools, W. D. Braidwood, G. H. Piercy and many of the pupils, parents and friends.

On the Governor's arrival a programme, which included recitations and physical exercises, was proceeded with, and on its conclusion Mr. Irvine read Mrs. Bateman's annual report, from which the following extracts are taken:—

As this will be my last report, a short resume of the work of the 15 years during which the school has been in existence may not be out of place. The school was originally started by Dr. Eitel, H.M.I., whose object was the education of Chinese and Eurasian children. It was first located in a private house in Hollywood Road. Miss Mann, a certificated teacher from England, took charge in March, 1890, and began her work with 20 girls. She left in August of the same year and was succeeded by Miss Ward, also a certificated teacher from England. On her resignation Dr. Eitel asked me to undertake the duties of Head Mistress. Hence my appointment, which dates from September, 1891, when the number on the roll was 70. In 1892 it had increased to 95; then it became necessary to seek greater accommodation. It was then that the Hon. E. R. Belilios (whose death we have so lately mourned) came forward with his generous offer to provide a building if the Government would give the ground. This offer was accepted by the Government, who gave the ground upon which the Central School for Boys previously stood. This building, perhaps the most spacious and airy school in the Colony, was given fully furnished with desks, black boards, easels and every requisite necessary to the carrying on of school routine. It was opened in December, 1893, by His Excellency the Governor, Sir William Robinson. The change was a most welcome one to teachers and children, but in the spring of the following year our bright prospects were darkened by that first and terrible visitation of plague in the Colony. During the months of June and July our school was literally "decimated" of children. The teachers came daily to find only empty desks, the average attendance for the month of June being five out of a roll of 95. This continued until the school closed on July 21st for the midsummer holidays. We, however, started again in September with 60 children, and from then the number steadily increased till in 1898 it reached its maximum of 185.

The school was then at its zenith, and was the school for English girls in the Colony. In September, 1901, the fees were raised from 50 cents to \$1.50. This was afterwards modified in cases where more than one child from a family attended the school. Other schools were opened in the Colony, such as the Diocesan Girls' School, where girls could be boarders, a thing often desired by Eurasians. Then the Kowloon British School was opened, and all British children were expected to attend it. Still later a school for Indian boys was started, and all Indian boys attending our school were drafted to it, as were Chinese boys to the District Schools; this seriously lessened our numbers. In 1901 the number of pupils increased, the average attendance in February being 116. In 1904 the average was 113, and in 1905, 928. If all pupils who entered during the year attended regularly, the average attendance would be very good. As I have previously stated, the school was started with the idea of giving an English education to Chinese and Eurasian girls; but as times went on more English girls entered, taking advantage of the education given, which is the same as that given in a high school at home where girls are prepared for the Oxford Local Examinations. In 1893 two girls at their own request were prepared for their examination; both passed, and one, Ethel Long, gained distinction in English History, heading the list of candidates. At the present time she and several other girls who have received their education in this school are occupying important positions in influential firms of the Colony. In December, 1903, I was asked to send specimens of the work done in the school to the St. Louis Exposition. Specimens of maps, and Chinese embroidery were sent. Early last year I received information from the secretary in Shanghai that a certificate and medal had been awarded for embroidery; but neither have arrived yet. An examination for the Belilios Trust Fund was held in April; five of our girls entered and four—Elia Hyndman, Esther Noma, Annie Lesbirel and Martha Peterson—gained prizes. This year the girls in the upper classes have been greatly interested in the study of hygiene, which has been promoted by His Excellency the Governor, and to which he gave great stimulation by the awarding of valuable prizes. During the past year 29 pupils received certificates for regular attendance, 11 of whom were not once absent, while the remainder were almost within the full number of days.

The following is a list of prize donors:—The Hon. Sir Paul Chater, Hon. Mr. R. Shewan, Hon. Mr. C. W. Dickson, Hon. Mr. Gershom Stewart, Dr. Ho Kai, Messrs. J. R. M. Smith, E. W. Mitchell, W. Wilson, Hughes and Hough, W. J. Humphreys, H. Humphreys, Ho Tung, Ho Fook, Fung Wa Chuen, A. Forbes, V. Deacon, J. Wheeler, D. Clark, Kelly & Walsh, Lock Hing, G. M. Bain, Tak Cheong, A. S. Mihara, Chan Pat, Goddard, Shellim and Dr. Kew.

The prizes were then distributed by Sir Matthew, after which one of the senior Chinese pupils addressed him in Chinese, the translation of her speech reading:—

Your Excellency, as this day is the finish of our year's school work, we sincerely thank your Excellency for honouring us with your presence, and also heartily thank you for presenting these prizes, which, more than the prizes, will be a great incentive to our studies during the ensuing year. I deem it a great honour that I should be selected from so many to express to your Excellency the thanks which every pupil in the Chinese girls' department feels. We also wish to express our gratitude to the English Government, that we, who are not English, are given the privilege of an education. While our own nation has neglected its weaker sex in this respect, the English Government is changing our position as the mould changes the shape of the iron, and is teaching us brighter and better ways of the rest of the world. To us it is the dawning of a great future. And, to be honoured by one so great flatters us in the extreme, and also teaches us that here "merit is rewarded," and invigorates us to harder labours. Once more, on behalf of the pupils of the Chinese Girls' department, allow me to express our heartiest thanks.

HIS EXCELLENCY said:—Ladies and Gentlemen—I confess that I was myself among those

who did not understand the words of that address, but I had previously seen a translation of it; the words were nicely selected and prettily spoken. This is the only school among those at which I have presented; or have to present prizes this year, in which there has been a falling off in the average attendance for the year 1905, but after hearing Mrs. Bateman's explanation of the reasons for the decrease, I don't think it is entirely to be regretted. New educational institutions have arisen which supply the special needs of certain classes of girls both in religious and in some subjects of secular education in a way that it is not possible for the Belilios School to do, and that school has reverted to the intention of its original founder—the education of Chinese girls. I see no reason why it should not be devoted to that purpose and have a great future before it. Mrs. Bateman in her report quoted a somewhat caustic remark made by Dr. Eitel in the earlier days of the school, in which he referred to it as a matrimonial agency. Well, I should like to see it become such an agency, not for the teachers, but for the girls, in the sense of giving them a training which will make them good wives in the future. Chinese girls now should be given some instruction in Western knowledge, as the Chinese young men of to-day are rapidly acquiring Western ideas and looking for that knowledge. The report of the Inspector of Schools, which was not read this morning, but which I have seen, is a favourable one, especially with regard to the senior English, Anglo-Chinese and vernacular school. There are various small points which he criticises; one I remember was that in the needlework class of the upper school the girls did not use thimbles. Personally, I think if I did needlework I would find a thimble very embarrassing (laughter),—but the Inspector says you are to use them, so you are to use them. Mr. Irvine complains that the girls do not speak sufficiently loud, but I am not sure that I am entirely with him there; as long as they speak quite distinctly it is hardly necessary that they should speak loudly. There is one remark of his with regard to the lower school to which I hope particular attention will be paid—that is, that more practice should be given in English composition. It is with great satisfaction I have heard that the teaching of hygiene in the school, both in the English, Anglo-Chinese and vernacular branches, has met with so much success. I thank Mrs. Bateman and the Head Master for the attention given to a subject in which they know I am so much interested. I have also on this occasion to thank, on behalf of the Government of Hongkong, Mrs. Bateman for her valuable services, extending over nearly fifteen years, rendered to the Colony as Head Mistress of Belilios School (applause). I wish her and I am sure I am expressing the wish of her friends and pupils, many happy years of retirement at home. I hope she will continue to take an interest in Hongkong, and that we shall be able to let her hear from time to time that her wish for the future prosperity of the school is being realised (applause). The only thing remaining for me to do is to present to the girl most proficient in English studies—Amelia Hyndman—a special prize (applause).

Three hearty cheers were accorded His Excellency, after which the singing of the National Anthem terminated the proceedings.

ANGLO-CHINESE DISTRICT GOVERNMENT SCHOOLS.

H.E. the Governor presided at the annual distribution of prizes of the Anglo-Chinese District Government Schools held at Yaumati on Jan. 19. There were present Mr. R. A. B. Ponsonby, His Excellency's private secretary, Mr. E. A. Irvine, Inspector of Schools, Rev. Bro. Sylvester, director of St. Joseph's College, Mr. G. H. Piercey, principal of the Diocesan School, Mrs. W. H. Williams, Ho Tung and others. The programme was so arranged as to combine business with pleasure, the items being interwoven with the business of the day. The principal of each school read his annual report extracts from which follow:—

YAUMATI SCHOOL.

Mr. W. Curwen said: Your Excellency, Inspector of Schools, Ladies and Gentlemen,—

In presenting this, my 3rd, annual report on the work of this school, I hope I may be allowed this privilege of classing this prize distribution as an auspicious occasion to the peninsula of Kowloon seeing it partakes of the nature of a double function. It celebrates the opening of the New Government School for the Education of Chinese youths in English ideas and it is the first distribution of prizes to Chinese scholars in a Government School in the peninsula of Kowloon by H. E. the Governor of the Colony. Since my last report the staff has been increased by the appointment of two additional assistant Chinese masters. The work of the whole of my present staff has been performed in an exceedingly satisfactory manner.

The fees and attendance have increased from \$1,200 to \$1,800, and the average daily attendance has risen from 84 to 95, being an increase in fees of 50 per cent, and in attendance of 15 per cent. This, I think, can be considered evidence of a desire on the part of Chinese parents and guardians for a sound and thorough English education in Kowloon and district. To our syllabus hygiene has been added during the past year. As you are aware, I reported very favourably on the teaching of history in my last report, and my further experience teaches me that it can be taught, though I am more than sorry to say the experiment must now terminate owing to the reorganization scheme. Under this scheme we have to eliminate history from our curriculum owing to the fact that the upper classes are to be abolished. In doing away with these classes, I am not fully convinced that a right course is being adopted. In saying this I do not wish to be thought cantankerous, but the end and aim of the District Schools cannot altogether be looked upon as feeders of Queen's College, as the greater majority of pupils who attend our schools do so with a desire to qualify for positions in firms at salaries say from \$25 to \$40 per mensem; and the education given at our schools is ample for that purpose. I have personally inquired into every case in which a boy has left this school from the upper class in order to discover his destination and work. This is the result:—16 boys have left from the upper classes, and four of them have gone to Queen's College. Only one cannot be traced; the remainder are working in various situations.

WANTSAI SCHOOL.

Mr. Young Hee's report was as follows:—Your Excellency, Mr. Irvine, Ladies and Gentlemen,—It is with much pleasure that I present my annual report. On January 1st 1905, there were 98 names on the School Roll. During the year there were 104 applications for admission. Of these 90 were enrolled (the remaining 14 failed to pass the required test in Chinese), thus bringing the total number on books up to 188. From various causes 49 left. The number on roll at the end of the year was 139. The school has been open on 238 days, and the average daily attendance was 14.08, which is considerably higher than any previous year. The fees collected amount to \$2,349, which is an increase of \$758.50 upon last year's revenue, and I think that the school is now in a most flourishing condition. There have been a number of changes in the staff due to promotions, and at the present time it consists of myself and five assistants. The recommendation made by the Inspector of Schools in his last annual report on the "Notes of Lessons," has been carried out satisfactorily, and the assistants now keep all "notes" in suitable books. Hygiene has been consistently taught throughout the year, and the boys have applied themselves with much energy to a most useful branch of study. The Inspector of Schools has paid several visits for the purpose of testing the progress of the school, and speaking generally the results are most satisfactory. Mathematics, (the English subjects and hygiene appear to be the best advantage, especially so in the junior classes. Translation is exceedingly good. Possessing as I do a profound knowledge of Chinese literature, I take great interest in the teaching of this subject, and the results are most gratifying. The school has on several occasions been visited by teachers from some of the grant-in-aid schools in the Colony, and by the representatives sent out by the educational authorities of the Philippines

for the express purpose of studying the methods of teaching English in practice in the District Schools. The normal class has been held at my school (under the supervision of the District Head Masters) on Saturday mornings, when the assistant teachers have been instructed in the modern methods of teaching. The lessons and criticisms cannot fail to have had a most beneficial effect.

SAIYINGPUN SCHOOL.

The Head, Mr. A. Morris, said:—Your Excellency, Mr. Irvine, Ladies and Gentlemen,—My term of office as Head Master of the Saiyingpun District School dates from the end of June. At the commencement of the summer vacation I submitted a report on the unsatisfactory condition in which I found the school. The staff includes three Anglo-Chinese assistants, one vernacular master and myself. The number in attendance throughout the year has been very poor, the highest monthly average being 49 and the lowest 35, while the average for the year was only 41. The fees collected were small, amounting to \$745. On the general results of the work there has been steady and constant progress, and I have every reason to believe that the school is now in a satisfactory state of efficiency. I have, with the consent of the Inspector of Schools, tried several innovations, which have been unqualified successes; those included launch trip, walking excursions and swimming and drawing exercises. The excursions, numbering about 30, were to the most important factories and chief places of interest in the Colony. They were well attended both by teachers and pupils, and I feel confident the boys derived much benefit therefrom both mentally and physically as well as morally. During the excursions specimens were collected, and these have gone to swell the contents of a museum of objects which have been further augmented by presentation of most useful and valuable cases of specimens from different English manufacturing firms. Drawing has been taught for the first time, and the syllabus includes freehand, geometry and brush work. During the summer months bathing parties were arranged, and the boys taught swimming. I think the initiation of an inter-schools' contest in swimming on somewhat similar lines to the football and hygiene competitions, but with more restrictions so as to place the weaker schools on a more equal footing, would give a great impetus to a most useful, healthy and popular exercise. Owing to the small number in the school we were unable to compete in the hygiene shield contest.

HIS EXCELLENCY then distributed the prizes, and said:—Ladies and Gentlemen,—The erection of the building where we are assembled to-day for the first time is due to the generosity of Mr. Ho Tung, who I am glad to see present. Mr. Ho Tung consented to present to the Government of Hongkong that school which is lower down Robinson Road, and which was built at his expense, so that it should be maintained for British children instead of, as he had originally intended, for children of all nationalities. He made it a condition to his consent that an equally good school should be provided for the Chinese boys of Yaumati, and this building has been erected in part fulfilment of that condition. I don't think the Yaumati boys have lost by the substitution of this building for the other. It is certainly as good a schoolhouse and has the additional advantage of a big playground, and is also more centrally and conveniently situated for residents of Yaumati. It is like the other school on the Robinson Road, the 100 foot road that will eventually go from Tsimchatsoi to old Kowloon Point. We proposed to make a part of the road in front of this house immediately, and to the north, and later on to cut through the hill you see out of the window in order to join it to the present termination of the road near the Chinese theatre, so that you may understand not only the geographical position of the school, but also its position in the general scheme of Government education. I propose to give you a few facts with regard to that scheme. There are altogether 81 Government and Government aided schools in the Colony, and the average attendance, which is, of course, very much lower than the total numbers on the roll, is about 5,000. Of this number about one-third are trained in the eleven Government

Schools, by far the most important of which is Queen's College, where an average of over 1,000 boys are instructed. Next, after Queen's College, come the three principal Anglo-Chinese Schools which the boys are here assembled at this morning. One is the Wantai School, situated on the east side of Victoria, another is the Saiyingpun School, situated at the west side, and the third is here at Yaumati. Then there are other Chinese schools at Tang Leung Chow, in Victoria, at Aberdeen, on the south-west side of the Island of Hongkong, and at Ng Lung, the principal market town on the west side of the New Territory. Then there is the small vernacular school, which I hope eventually will become an Anglo-Chinese school, at Shek Ho, on the south east side of the island of Hongkong. We are going to start this year an Anglo-Chinese school at Taipo, a market town on the east side of the New Territory. For special purposes an Anglo-Indian school has been started in Victoria, the Victoria school for British boys and children, and the Kowloon school for British girls and children, while for Chinese girls there is the Belilios School in Victoria with its English and vernacular classes. I don't propose to increase the number of these schools, but I hope we shall be able to add to their extent and to their efficiency. In order to carry out this idea we propose in the first place to start evening continuation classes at Queen's College; next, to raise the general standard of that establishment and make the three principal Chinese schools feeders for that College. It seemed to me that there was a waste of teaching power in having larger classes for a higher standard in the Anglo-Chinese schools where there were only two or two boys in each class, who would do better if they had greater stimulus in the higher classes of Queen's College. I hope in time that Dr. Bateson Wright's best scholars will be those who have been through Mr. Young Hee, Mr. Curwen and Mr. Morris. I see no reason why we should not be able to raise the other Anglo-Chinese schools, those on either the island or in the New Territory, to the same level as their principal ones, so that they also shall become feeders of Queen's College. In the Anglo-Indian School there is room for considerable development, and I know with regard to the British that Messrs. Williams and James are doing their utmost to push them on, while at Belilios School Mrs. Bateman's successor will find work in front of her in training the future mothers of the Colony. I thought these general remarks on education in the Colony would be of more interest to the ladies and gentlemen present than any detailed criticism of the Head Master's reports. With regard to those reports and the work of the boys, I have only to add that I think much has been done in the past year by Messrs. Curwen and Young Hee, and that Mr. Morris has made an excellent start in his school. I will give my special prize on this occasion—the occasion of the opening of the Yaumati school—to Yennng King Fuk, the head boy of that school (applause). I wish now to express the thanks of the Government to Mr. Ho Tung for his generosity, and to declare the school opened (great applause).

Mr. Ho Tung briefly acknowledged this, and Mr. Curwen, on behalf of masters and scholars, conveyed a hearty vote of thanks to the Governor.

THE FAR EASTERN SHIPPING COMBINE.

The Union of Steamship Companies has for long had a scheme on foot to form one large steamship company, but the idea was shelved on the outbreak of the war, as most of their steamers were taken up by the Government for transports. Now that peace has been restored, and the steamers in the Union are being gradually released from the Government service, steps are being taken to carry out the scheme. Steamship owners in South America, the South Sea Islands, and China will join the proposed company, and the union desires to admit if possible foreign steamship owners and form a large corporation in the Far East, running steamers between Japan, China, Corea, Europe and America. The steamers of the Union at present number over 180, with an aggregate tonnage of about 350,000 tons.

SUPREME COURT.

Friday, January 12th.

IN SUMMARY JURISDICTION.

BEFORE MR. A. G. WISE (PUISNE JUDGE).

CLAIM FOR A WATCH.

The plaintiff, A. C. Roberts, for whom Mr. F. X. d'Almada e Castro appeared, sued G. A. Souza for \$180, value of a watch belonging to him which defendant had in his possession.

Mr. d'Almada e Castro produced a letter written in Portuguese by defendant in which he acknowledged having possession of the watch and promising to return it. The defendant was put in the box.

His Lordship—Did you write this?

Witness did not reply.

His Lordship—Is it in your writing? The signature is yours; surely you understand your own language.

Mr. d'Almada—I would ask for judgment with costs.

His Lordship—Let us hear what he has to say. (To defendant) Do you admit writing the letter?

Defendant—Yes. Plaintiff came over to me as a friend to return the watch, as his father was bothering about it. Plaintiff gave me the watch.

His Lordship—Why did you write the letter?

Defendant—He begged me for the watch.

His Lordship—Judgment with costs. I cannot do anything else on the face of this letter. You said you had the watch and that you would return it.

Defendant—He begged me to.

The Puisse Judge—Well, you are a kind-hearted man, but I can't help you.

Monday, January 15th.

IN ADMIRALTY JURISDICTION.

BEFORE SIR FRANCIS PIGGOTT (CHIEF JUSTICE) AND CAPT. MORRISON, NAUTICAL ASSESSOR.

The Yik On Steamship Company sued the owners of the steamship "Kwang Tung" for \$500, for damage caused by a collision between the "Tai On" and the "Kwang Tung".

Mr. W. Slade, instructed by Mr. R. Harding, appeared for plaintiffs, and Mr. E. H. Sharp, K.C., instructed by Mr. H. J. Gedge (of Messrs. Johnson, Stokes and Master), appeared for the defendants.

The preliminaries and pleadings having been read.

Mr. Slade outlined the case for the plaintiffs. At the outset he mentioned that his friend and he were agreed on one point—that that action was not confined to the amount of damage sustained in the collision. The "Kwang Tung" had sunk a fully-laden salt junk, and one of the parties must pay that *solatium* of \$20,000, so that the sum in dispute was really much more than the \$500 claimed. Proceeding to relate the facts, counsel said that his Lordship would see from the preliminary acts that the case resolved itself into a dispute between the two steamers as to which was the overtaking vessel. The "Tai On" said it was the "Kwang Tung" and the latter said it was the former. He believed he would be able to satisfy his Lordship that the plaintiffs' story was the accurate one. They said the "Kwang Tung" was the overtaking vessel and there could be no question as to her liability. It would be proved that she steered a course which brought her across the bows of the "Tai On," and another point against her was that she admitted increasing her speed, and being the overtaking vessel she passed the "Tai On" and caused the accident. The story of the "Tai On" was an exceedingly simple one. She left Hongkong at 8 o'clock on the evening of the 16th May, and the other vessel left exactly an hour later. The "Tai On" was an old and very slow ship, while the "Kwang Tung" was a comparatively new and fast vessel. Some time before the "Tai On" reached Whampoa—she reached Whampoa at 4 o'clock—the "Kwang Tung" passed her. From Whampoa up to the place of collision, a distance of some miles

the "Tai On" maintained the same easy speed at which she had come up from Hongkong, even against the tide because she was in plenty of time. She came up to the "Kwang Tung" which was obviously going dead slow, and passed her about 5.15. Pleasantries were exchanged between the Captains, and the "Tai On" drew ahead. Immediately she was clear of the "Kwang Tung" the latter, which was the faster of the two vessels, put on speed and came on again. She overhauled her and after the two ships steamed close together for a short distance, drew ahead, between the barrier and the Salt Flats, where the channel narrows very considerably. At that point it would be prudent for the ship on the starboard side to alter her course. The "Kwang Tung" which was not quite clear ahead, started so as to get clear of the bank and enter the deep narrow channel. She miscalculated her speed and the amount of room she had, with the result that her quarter struck the "Tai On" a glancing blow on her bow. The "Kwang Tung" was then unable to straighten up in the narrow channel—her stern was held—and she struck the junk on the left hand side of the river. The damage done to the "Tai On" was little more than breaking some stanchions caused by her anchor being forced inwards. As far as could be seen from the answer to the preliminary acts, the story of the "Kwang Tung" was that the "Tai On" at no time succeeded in passing the "Kwang Tung" and that the accident was caused by the "Tai On" sheering from side to side. When there was a danger of a collision the "Kwang Tung" stopped and reversed her engines, but they failed to avert the collision. In conclusion, he stated that since the collision the first mate of the "Tai On" had died.

Capt. Lawrence, master of the "Tai On", said he had been engaged in navigation on the Canton River since 1878. Detailing the circumstances which led up to the collision, he stated that the "Kwang Tung" passed the "Tai On" below Whampoa, and above that place he saw her about a mile and a half or two miles ahead. Continuing at the same easy speed, the "Tai On" passed the "Kwang Tung" on her port side about 5.15 and drew ahead. About ten minutes later he heard the noise of a steamer coming up behind. Then he saw the "Kwang Tung" come up and repass the "Tai On" on the starboard side. When right abreast the two ships drew towards each other and witness sang out "Captain Walker, mind what you are doing." Thereupon a bell was rung on the "Kwang Tung" which shot ahead, starboarded her helm and crossed his bow. When she was going across his bow, he telegraphed to stand by, full speed astern, and helm amidships. There were junks on his port side which gave him no room to starboard his helm. The "Kwang Tung's" stanchions caught the fluke of his anchor and broke the stanchions forward. When she got clear from his vessel, he saw her run into the salt junk on his port side. In trying to straighten up, she caught his anchor and the ebb being on her starboard bow that caused the "Kwang Tung" to run into the junk. He went straight on and reported the matter.

Cross-examined—When the "Tai On" passed the "Kwang Tung" on the starboard he was in the middle of the channel. It was not compulsory that whistles should be blown if an overtaking vessel wished to pass. It was usual to do so if there was little room. It was etiquette that vessels should proceed up the river in their berthing order.

Have you ever been complained of for breaking this rule?—No, not to my knowledge.

Were you master of the "Tai On" when she collided with a Chinese torpedo boat?—Yes.

You have not heard whether your owners have had to pay damage?—No.

I put it to you that the "Kwang Tung" had to go full speed ahead to clear you?—That is not so.

I put it to you that your bow never got forward to her midships. Then she began to leave you behind and you began to sheer about and got into her?—I was clear ahead of her.

At no time was your bow further forward than our wheelhouse?—No that is wrong.

Have you read the evidence given by Mr. Lewis, a passenger on board the "Kwang Tung"?—I don't know anything about it.

Did you never hear that evidence was given by some one who was going away?—Oh, yes.

Did you ever hear that he said that your bow never came further forward than our wheel-house?—I am sorry to say he knows nothing about the ship.

Did you ever hear that?—Yes.

Re-examined—You were asked about signals. Did the "Kwang Tung" give you any signals?—No.

It was said you did not stand by?—It would have been dangerous to have stopped.

Why?—I would have drifted among the junks. Besides I had a passenger to land.

William Stanfield, chief engineer on board the "Tai On" gave evidence as to times of stopping and starting the engines.

Tang Sing, at present chief pilot on the "San Cheng," and formerly on the "Tai On" denied that that vessel had been sheering prior to the collision as alleged, nor did she change her course after she had passed the "Kwang Tung." The place was narrow and shallow where the "Kwang Tung" tried to cross the bow of the "Tai On."

The quartermaster of the "Tai On" gave corroborative evidence.

This concluded the case for the plaintiffs.

Mr. Sharp opened the case for the defendants. He said that the "Kwang Tung" left Hong Kong at 9 o'clock, and about 12.30 the "Tai On" was sighted well ahead. Some time after that the "Kwang Tung" which had been going full speed, slowed a little, there being plenty of time to spare. The "Kwang Tung" passed the "Tai On" near Tiger Island about 1.30 and from then until the collision the "Kwang Tung" remained in front at varying distances. The "Tai On" fell behind. About 5.10 or a little earlier the "Kwang Tung" passed the Whampoa barrier, by which time the "Tai On" was about half a mile astern. She gradually overhauled the "Kwang Tung," but Captain Walker thought nothing of this, as it was usual for steamers to congregate there and enter Canton in a procession. He assumed that the "Tai On" would slow up and it did not occur to him that she intended to pass him. Not till a few minutes later did he realise this and then it was too late for him to do anything. About 5.20 the "Tai On" came close to the "Kwang Tung" and rapidly began to overlap her on her port quarter. There had been some misunderstanding as to the sheering. What they meant was that the wash from the vessel in front caused the bow of the "Tai On" to swerve, and her helm brought it up again. Captain Walker feared this oscillation would bring the "Tai On" into him and so he properly quickened his speed and went ahead. What occurred after the collision was common ground between the parties. It took place at the narrowest part of the channel, below the Salt Commissioner's yamen, and the effect of it was to force the bow of the "Kwang Tung" round to port, put her across the river almost at an angle of 45 degrees, and though her engines were immediately reversed she ran into the junks ahead. Had it not been that she broke this junk she would have run aground, as she had full speed. The crucial question was very simple. The "Kwang Tung's" case was that the collision was caused by the "Tai On" which throughout was the overtaking vessel and never passed clear of the "Kwang Tung."

The evidence of Reginald George Lewis, railway engineer, a passenger on the "Kwang Tung" on the night in question, taken on commission, was read. He stated that the bow of the overtaking steamer, the "Tai On," was never level with the bow of the "Kwang Tung." The "Tai On" struck the latter on the stern with her bow and altered her direction, causing her to ram the junk.

The case was adjourned.

Tuesday, January 16th.

IN ADMIRALTY JURISDICTION.

BEFORE SIR FRANCIS PIGGOTT (CHIEF JUSTICE) WITH CAPTAIN MORRISON AS NAUTICAL ASSESSOR.

THE YIK ON S.S. CO. v. OWNERS OF "KWANG TUNG."

The hearing of the action in which the Yik On S.S. Co. sued the Owners of the "Kwang

Tung" for \$500 for damages resulting from a collision was resumed.

Mr. M. Slade, instructed by Mr. R. Harding, conducted the case for plaintiffs, and Mr. E. H. Sharp, K.C., instructed by Mr. H. J. Gedge (of Messrs. Johnson, Stokes and Master), appeared for defendants.

Captain Walker, of the "Kwang Tung," detailed the events of the night in question. He came on the bridge at 12.30 and was in charge of the ship up till the time of the collision. At 12.45 he eased her to three-quarter speed until they reached Canton. He saw the "Tai On" at 12.30 some distance ahead and he passed her about three quarters of an hour later. At the Whampoa barrier the "Tai On" was still behind, although she had been gradually drawing nearer. She continued overhauling and caught up the "Kwang Tung" at 5.20. Witness was then on the starboard side of the river and the navigable channel. The "Tai On" was heading on to the stern of the "Kwang Tung" in coming across from the north bank. Had she continued that course she would have struck his vessel on the port quarter. As the "Tai On" drew nearer he considered this was dangerous and he ordered full speed in order to avert danger.

To his Lordship—The "Tai On" was only doing what the "Kwang Tung" had done.

Witness then described the collision. The bow of the "Tai On" was a little behind that of the "Kwang Tung" and she never got forward of that position. The "Tai On" fell astern until her bow was only overlapping a few feet. Then she began to sheer and in the third sheer her bow struck his ship on the stern, forcing his bow round. Immediately he felt the collision he ordered full speed astern and the helm was put hard a port, but it had no effect upon the ship's head and the vessel collided with a junk. Had that junk not been there the "Kwang Tung" would have run aground. When the "Tai On" first approached the "Kwang Tung" he did not think she intended to pass, because it was customary for an overtaking ship to blow blasts indicating to the overtaken ship on which side she intended to pass. Just before the collision the "Tai On" was in the middle of the stream, and had she remained in that course she would have run into the junks. Accordingly she altered her course, but at no time before the collision was she ever ahead of the "Kwang Tung."

Cross-examined—The collision took place about 500 or 600 feet from the yamen, although the "Tai On" caught him up a little less than a mile from the yamen. At the time he was overtaken by the "Tai On" his ship was travelling at half speed, as it had been since 1 o'clock. He passed the "Tai On" when the "Kwang Tung" was at half speed and he passed the barrier about 5.10. Between Tiger Island and Whampoa he had gained several miles on the "Tai On," being two or three miles ahead of her. Counsel read the evidence of Mr. Lewis and asked witness if his helm was not ported when the collision occurred. The reply was that the helm was ported when the collision occurred.

I think you stated that if the "Tai On" had continued the course in which she was at the time she would have run into the junks?—Yes.

If you had continued the course in which you were then—both ships being parallel—you would also have run into the junks?—Yes.

Therefore I put it to you that, quite properly, you ported your helm so as to give the "Tai On" more room and also to get to the starboard side of the channel—before the collision. I mean?—At the moment I saw the "Tai On" swing towards us I told the man to port the helm.

Having in view the fact that the two ships were, in other words, racing for this narrow neck, was it not your duty to give as much room as possible to the "Tai On"?—I gave the "Tai On" as much room as possible in the circumstances.

His Lordship—He does not admit, of course, he was racing.

Mr. Sharp—My friend only says—

Mr. Slade—You were racing, were you not?—No.

You were trying to get ahead of the "Tai On"?—I had on full speed.

To get ahead of her and keep ahead of her?—No.

You did not put on full speed until the other ship had overlapped you?—She was just on my quarter then.

Anyway, you were steaming as fast as you could for this narrow entrance, trying to get into it before the "Tai On"?—That was the reason I altered my speed to full speed.

Yes.—To get away from her?

And get into Canton before her?—Not necessarily.

I take it from your log?—I have stated so.

That was in your mind at the time?—I had to give some general reason.

You agree that the "Tai On" was as close to the bank as she could safely go?—She was about 100 feet from the bank.

It would not be safer for her to go any closer?—No.

Both ships were steering the same course. The "Tai On" was steering a course which would sooner or later bring her into the junks?—Yes.

You were coming across the river. Didn't you port your helm to make straight along the navigable channel?—I had hardly come to that position.

I suggest that you did in fact port, and that that brought your helm opposite the "Tai On's" bow?—I did not port enough for that.

You say the "Tai On" turned right up into you?—Yes.

She was right away aft, almost astern of you?—Yes, on my quarter.

You knew you were coming into the very narrow channel?—Yes.

And were you looking at your course or at the ship astern?—I was walking about, looking to either side.

You stated that the "Tai On" sheered twice. What do you mean?—She swung towards us and moved off again. (Illustrated by models.)

Your counsel said yesterday that it was the wash—

Mr. Sharp—Don't be hampered by me. Give your own opinion, Captain.

Witness—My opinion is that the suction—both ships being about 60 feet apart—drew them together.

The attraction of the two ships would only affect the "Tai On." You would not be drawn down on top of her by that sort of attraction?—Perhaps not.

You could not say?—I have not gone into the subject. I have seen two ships drawn together.

I put it to you that as the two ships were coming down, making for that channel, you said yourself some 60 feet or thereabout, you thought that you were right clear and starboarded to get into clear water, thinking to pass ahead of her?—No, I did not starboard the helm. I never attempted to cross her.

As you drew ahead the distance at right angles between the two ships remained the same?—As the "Tai On" fell back towards our quarter the distance between us seemed to lessen.

In other words you were on divergent courses?—It would appear so.

Witness, in reply to his Lordship, said he thought the suction between two ships would operate at a distance of 60 feet or a little more.

His Lordship—What were you doing all this time?—I was watching the ship.

Was there any shouting?—No.

No warning?—No.

It was quite a normal state of affairs?—Yes.

You have given two explanations of the actual cause of the collision. I want you to tell me whether both helped to cause the collision. One is the suction and the other is, as you said in examination, "she ported and came towards us?"—She ported at the last.

You mean she altered her parallel course and ported towards you?—She seemed at the time to come towards us.

Having ported her helm, the suction would cease to act, would it not?—The suction would still exist.

T. R. Mead, formerly first officer on the "Kwang Tung" and now master on one of the Company's other steamers, spoke to hearing the telegraph bell ring and on going out of his room saw the bow of the "Tai On" abreast of the funnel. He bore out the previous witness's version of the occurrence.

The case was adjourned.

IN SUMMARY JURISDICTION.

BEFORE MR. A. G. WISE (PUISNE JUDGE).

A MONEY-LENDING TRANSACTION.

Gojar Singh, watchman at the Connaught House Hotel, sued Chu Lam for the recovery of \$58, \$50 being balance of money lent and \$8 interest for four months. Mr. K. Gardiner, of the office of Mr. O. D. Thomson, appeared for plaintiff, while defendant appeared in person.

Defendant admitted the debt, but he said he borrowed the money from one Gijit Singh, who had disappeared. The promissory note, however, showed that the endorsement was in favour of the plaintiff, and judgment was given for him with costs; the promissory note, at defendant's request, being marked as an exhibit in the case so that he should not be called to pay a second time.

THE WRONG DEFENDANT.

Chan Yuen, boatbuilder, sued Chan Ngau Chu, cargo boat owner, for \$47.38, balance due for the building of a cargo boat. Mr. G. C. Master (of Messrs. Johnson, Stokes and Master) appeared for plaintiff and Mr. F. X. d'Almada e Castro for the defendant.

Mr. Master—The repairs were done in 1902.

His Lordship—1902? Then you are out of time under the Statute of Limitations.

Mr. Master—Yes, that would be so, my Lord, but there were later payments, in 1904.

His Lordship—Ah! then that of course makes a difference. I'll hear what you have to say.

Plaintiff said he had been employed by defendant in building and repairing his boats since 1900. Defendant had made several payments, but there was still a balance of \$47.38 due.

From the books which plaintiff produced it appeared that defendant's sister-in-law gave the order for the boat and asked plaintiff to put defendant's names with hers in his books. It was also the woman who made the payments.

His Lordship, without calling on Mr. d'Almada, asked Mr. Master if he wished to go on.

Mr. Master—No, I don't think so now, my Lord.

His Lordship—There is no doubt he had been done. Somebody owes him the money, but he has got hold of the wrong person now. There must be judgment for defendant with costs.

Wednesday, January 17th.

IN ADMIRALTY JURISDICTION.

BEFORE SIR FRANCIS PIGGOTT (CHIEF JUSTICE) WITH CAPTAIN MORRISON, NAUTICAL ASSESSOR.

YIK ON S.S. CO., v. OWNERS OF "KWANG TUNG."

The hearing of this action for the recovery of damages resulting from a collision was resumed. Mr. M. Slade, instructed by Mr. K. Harding, appeared for plaintiffs, and Mr. E. H. Sharp, K.C., instructed by Mr. H. J. Gedge (of Messrs. Johnston, Stokes and Master), for defendants.

Evidence for the defence was continued.

Mr. Cordeiro, the chief engineer on board the "Kwang Tung," who was on duty at the time of the collision, said the ship was going at half speed, there having been no change since 1 a.m. At 5.22 full speed was put on. When that order came he was down in the engine room. Their half speed represented travelling at about seven knots an hour. The maximum speed at her trial was 11.4, but her ordinary speed was 10 knots. Unless they were late they usually had a low pressure of steam on approaching Canton. After putting his engines full speed witness came on deck and saw the "Tai On" approaching on the port side. She gradually overhauled them, and he saw her chief engineer, to whom he waved, and who replied in a like manner. The funnel of the "Tai On" might have been level with that of the "Kwang Tung" when he went below. The next order which he received was full speed astern, at 5.28, but before that he had felt the collision. He put the engines astern for about half a minute and then he stopped in obedience to the order received. When he felt the collision he sent a man up who told him that they had sunk

a salt junk. They were stopped for about ten minutes. The effect would have been greater with a boat of a bigger draught, because she would have been closer to the bottom.

To the Judge—It would take about a minute and a half for the ship coming from half to full speed to feel and about two minutes if at slow speed.

A Chinese sailor on board the "Kwang Tung" said he was sent a message on deck and noticed the "Tai On" alongside. Her green light was on a level with their red lamp. Had she come as far forward as the wheelhouse he would have seen when he was there as-isting at the wheel.

The Chinese pilot said he saw the stem of the "Tai On" in front of the funnel of the "Kwang Tung."

After other evidence,

Captain Walker was recalled, and, in reply to his Lordship, said he did not take any steps until the "Tai On" was about thirty feet off because he expected her to stop.

Captain Laurence was also recalled and questioned as to times.

Mr. Sharp then addressed the Court. He thought it would be convenient to consider the case under the heading of the defaults alleged against them. The first was that being the overtaking ship the "Kwang Tung" did not keep out of the way. That was really the whole case and all the other points revolved on that. Dealing with the obligations of an overtaken ship, he argued that the "Tai On" did not get past and ahead and was therefore wrong in attempting to cross the other's course. Indeed it was inconceivable that the "Kwang Tung" being the faster ship and intending to keep in front should allow the "Tai On" to pass and then attempt to overtake her when the captain knew that it would mean meeting in that dangerous and narrow channel. It was alleged that the "Kwang Tung" attempted to cross ahead of the "Tai On" but they denied that allegation. They merely kept to the starboard side of the navigable channel, according to the obligations imposed on them. He refuted the allegation that the "Kwang Tung" was recklessly navigated.

Mr. Sharp had not concluded his address when the Court rose.

IN ORIGINAL JURISDICTION.

KWONG YAU HANG v. LAU WA CHAU.

Mr. E. H. Sharp, K.C., made an application in the action Kwong Yau Hang against Lau Wai Chan, who was the comrade of the Hongkong and Shanghai Bank, and others. He understood that the writ of execution was issued on July 24th last, and nothing had been done, except that his property had been attached on the date mentioned, until that day, when he had been arrested for some debt ten minutes ago. He asked leave to apply at short notice—half an hour later (4 o'clock) to set aside that writ. The man, he understood, was at that moment in the Registry.

His Lordship granted leave to apply.

When the case was called later,

Mr. Sharp stated that judgment was given on June 26th and 30th, 1905, against Lau Wai Chun and, on July 6th, the judgment was registered in the Land Office against a large number of his properties. The writ of execution was issued on July 24th and a prohibitory order on the same day against a large number of properties. Lau Wai Chan gave a mortgage to the Hongkong and Shanghai Bank on July 14th, 1905. On July 21st a letter was written by the plaintiff's solicitors to the defendant's solicitors calling attention to the fact that the judgment was registered on July 6th and that it would take precedence of the mortgage. That day a letter had been addressed by plaintiff's solicitors to the bailiff stating that they found the defendants' properties had previously been mortgaged and asking the bailiff to arrest the defendant under the execution. The letter showed that they were aware of the mortgage from the beginning. The judgment was registered on July 6th and the mortgage was not registered till July 15th, so that the judgment took priority.

His Lordship—Now you move to discharge the warrant for his arrest?

Mr. Sharp—Yes.

His Lordship—What has happened?

Mr. Sharp—The man has been arrested this afternoon.

Mr. Sharp then proceeded to argue that plaintiff could not attach defendants' property and afterwards have him arrested. He must pursue one remedy. He could not have both.

His Lordship—He has attached the property?

Mr. Sharp—Yes. Six months ago.

Discussion ensued, after which

Mr. R. Harding interposed—My firm represent the plaintiff.

Mr. Sharp—The matter is extremely urgent. The defendant is the responsible comrade of the Hongkong and Shanghai Bank.

His Lordship (to Mr. Harding)—Having selected your remedy by way of attachment and having registered your prohibitory order you cannot imprison. That is the decision which I gave in chambers last year.

Mr. Harding—I was not aware your Lordship had come to such a decision.

His Lordship—Oh, yes.

Mr. Harding—I am not prepared to argue the case. You cannot expect me at half on hour's notice.

Mr. Slade then addressed his Lordship in the interests of plaintiff, pointing out that having pursued the judgment and not realising any money they had pursued the other remedy—that was, the arrest of the defendant. It would be hard on the plaintiff if defendant were to be liberated without security. It was said the Bank could not conveniently get on without him. He had plenty of assistants who actually did the work.

Mr. Sharp—He is the person solely responsible for his department.

Mr. Slade—The plaintiff in this case is harshly treated if this man is let go without any security.

His Lordship—As a matter of fact he is wanted to complete the day's accounts.

Mr. Howell, bailiff, made a statement to his Lordship.

The Judge—Yes, it might be that he could go back to the Bank. I don't want to give a decision from which you would appeal.

After further remarks had been exchanged, His Lordship—As you are both present, I prefer to give a decision on the same lines as I did in chambers. I felt so strongly about it when I constructed the rule at the time. I feel that is the decision I shall give. I will go to this extent. I should not alter my opinion without consulting my brother judge.

Mr. Slade said it was very hard on the plaintiff.

Mr. Sharp explained that the next step after the attachment of the prohibitory order was the sale of the property, but the plaintiff had not applied to his Lordship to sell the property.

Mr. Slade then pointed out that the law gave both redress.

His Lordship—Yes, if necessary. The practice must be tested in the full court.

Mr. Slade said they had got the man now. That application had been made and he did not think his Lordship ought to meet it without giving plaintiff an opportunity of bringing it up.

His Lordship replied that the practice being what he established in chambers it must be conformed to, and the writ of execution in so far as it affected the imprisonment of the defendant would be set aside.

Mr. Slade hoped his Lordship would reserve power to plaintiff to apply again for his arrest.

His Lordship—Oh, yes. [He added that the writ had better be suspended in so far as it related to the imprisonment of the defendant.]

Mr. Sharp asked for costs.

His Lordship reserved these till final judgment was given.

IN SUMMARY JURISDICTION.

BEFORE MR. A. G. WISE (PUISNE JUDGE).

A PROMISSORY NOTE.

Wong Yin alias Ping Tsing Tong brought an action against the Tai Loi Chan Wo Ki for the recovery of the sum of \$945.72, money due on a promissory note dated February 2nd, 1905. Mr. F. P. Hett (of Messrs. Brutton, Hett and Goldring) appeared for the plaintiff.

When the case was called Mr. Hett said that Mr. R. A. Harding had been acting for the

defendant, but he understood that that gentleman had withdrawn from the case.

Mr. Hett proved the claim in the absence of the defendant, and judgment was given for plaintiff with costs.

AN ABSENT WITNESS.

The Kwang Sung Ling firm, of 6 Jubilee Street, traders, sued Un Tak, trading under the name and style of Kwong Sik Lung at 32, Central Market, for the recovery of \$191.37, the amount of goods supplied by plaintiff to defendant. Mr. O. D. Thomson appeared for plaintiff, and Mr. C. F. Dixon, from the office of Mr. John Hastings, for the defendant.

Mr. Dixon asked for an adjournment on the ground that his principal witness was out of the Colony and was not expected back until after Chinese New Year.

His Lordship—Is he coming back, or is it just a flitting?

Mr. Dixon—Oh, yes, my Lord, he is coming back, and if your Lordship will grant an adjournment I am prepared to pay the amount claimed into Court.

His Lordship—Pay the amount into Court and the case will go into Friday's list.

Thursday, January 18th.

IN ADMIRALTY JURISDICTION.

BEFORE SIR FRANCIS PIGGOTT (CHIEF JUSTICE) WITH CAPTAIN MORRISON AS NAUTICAL ASSESSOR.

THE YIK ON S.S. CO. v. OWNERS OF "KWANG TUNG."

His Lordship heard the arguments of counsel in this action.

Mr. Sharp resumed his address, pointing out that when the "Kwang Tung" was overtaken by the "Tai On" it was a proper manoeuvre for her to go full speed ahead in the circumstances.

His Lordship—Do you say a ship coming up at an angle, as the captain says, is an overtaking ship?

Mr. Sharp—Oh, yes, my Lord.

The Assessor—Yes, anything two points abaft the beam.

Mr. Sharp dealt with the suggestion that the "Kwang Tung" ported her helm just before the collision, and affirmed that if it were the overtaken ship they would have to steer as the windings of the channel required and the overtaking ship would have to give her room to do so. Coming to the defaults against the "Tai On," the first he would mention was that a good lookout was not kept. Passing on to the second default, they said that the "Tai On" being the overtaking ship did not keep out of the way and the blame for the collision rested with her. It was a matter of prudent seamanship. The "Tai On" ought not to have attempted to get past, and she was wrong for persisting in that attempt in the narrows of the channel. Again, the "Tai On" did not slacken speed, stop or reverse as she ought to have done. He submitted generally that she was navigated in a reckless and unseamanlike manner, the particular act of unseamanlike conduct being the attempt to pass the "Kwang Tung" in a narrow channel where there was risk in attempting the manoeuvre. It showed bad seamanship to disregard the custom of the vessels going up the river in berthing order. This bad seamanship was also exhibited in the "Tai On" attempting to pass without signalling her intention to the "Kwang Tung."

Mr. Slade, at the outset of his address, dealt with the points of law raised by Mr. Sharp. He held that there was nothing in the circumstances to justify a departure from the regulations, because the captain of the "Kwang Tung" feared that the other ship would not be bound by them. There was nothing to suggest that the "Tai On" was not going to keep to the regulation. Counsel quoted authorities to show that those responsible for the navigation of ships must stick to the rules except under exceptional circumstances and except under stress of very great danger, but these conditions did not obtain on this occasion, and he submitted that the increase of speed on the part of the "Kwang Tung" was not justified. Then Mr. Sharp

had argued that the "Kwang Tung" was excused by the rule of the "agony of the moment," but he did not consider that that theory applied in the case of the captain of the "Kwang Tung," and, in his opinion, it was the increase of speed which caused the collision. With regard to the facts, his Lordship would have to decide between two cases that were diametrically opposed, and counsel suggested certain facts which ought to operate against his Lordship placing reliance on the evidence for the defence. He went on to quote authorities to show that it was the duty of the "Kwang Tung" to keep her course and speed, being the overtaken ship. It was her duty to maintain her speed when another was passing. If she increased her speed she not merely broke the article which prohibited that but became an overtaking ship and took on herself the added obligations of keeping out of the way.

At the close, his Lordship intimated that he reserved judgment.

IN CRIMINAL SESSIONS.

BEFORE MR. A. G. WISE (PUISNE JUDGE).

A COOL REQUEST.

Ho Fuk pleaded guilty to a charge of robbery with violence in the harbour along with other two men.

Prisoner said if his Lordship would let him go he would look for the other two men.

His Lordship—Will he come back himself, I wonder?

Detective Inspector Hanson informed the Court that the prisoner pointed out two men who were not the right men.

Prisoner was sentenced to five years' hard labour and 24 strokes with the birch as soon as convenient.

ARMED ROBBERY.

Lam Ting Yau and Lam Yau were indicted on two counts charged with armed robbery and receiving stolen goods on December 1st, 1905. The Attorney General (Sir R. Berkeley) conducted the case for the prosecution, prisoners being undefended.

The following jury were empanelled: Messrs. Robert Mitchell (foreman) P. H. C. Potts, Philip R. Wolff, Theodore Braun, L. M. H. Boissereé, F. C. Zehrmann, and John Buchan.

The Attorney General stated the facts. The complainants, fish dealers of Ping Hoi, left there on December 1st with a cargo of fish for Hongkong. They had eight people in the junk, three of whom were passengers. All went well until 9 o'clock that night when at a place called Tai Loong Hoi they were attacked by men in a junk. This junk drew alongside theirs and four men, armed with revolvers and other firearms, came on board and drove them into the hold where they were confined. After about 24 hours' imprisonment, during which time they heard the noise of goods being removed, they came on deck when the noise had ceased, and found that the men had gone, taking with them the cargo of fish and other things. Their junk having been under sail all the time they found themselves in Mirs Bay when they came on deck. Meanwhile the robbers had arrived in Hongkong and disposed of their fish to fishmongers, but the manner in which they did so roused the suspicions of the fishmongers who communicated with the police. The fish, cured and partly cured, was all mixed up. When the complainants arrived in Hongkong and informed the police of the occurrence they were shown the fish and a number of articles taken from the junk, which they identified.

Witnesses were called in support of the prosecution, on which it was stated that the value of the fish stolen was 100 taels.

When the defendants were asked what they had to say, the first one remarked—I hope, Mr. Interpreter, you will interpret well and tell his Lordship all I am going to say.

An extraordinary story was told by the first defendant. When out in his boat intending to purchase salt, on December 1st, there was no wind and he drifted about. A junk came alongside and the men on board asked him—"Where are you going? Have you any money?" He replied that he had no money, but they would not believe him and kicked him, afterwards tying a rope round his neck. Then he cried

out that he had \$24, which he gave them. They left and there being no wind he dropped his anchor. Soon two boats came alongside and the robbers insisted, against his wishes, on putting the fish in his boat.

The second defendant agreed with this story.

His Lordship summed up, and the jury returned a verdict unanimously against the first defendant on the first count and the second defendant on the second.

The first defendant declared it was a false accusation. The police sergeant prompted the witnesses to identify him. He bribed them, gave the witnesses 10 cents each, and told them what to do.

The second prisoner said none of the witnesses were able to identify him.

The first defendant was sentenced to five years' hard labour and 24 strokes with the birch, and the second to three years' hard labour.

AN ABSENT JURYMAN.

George H. May, who had failed to answer to his name when called as a juryman, was called before his Lordship and asked what he had to say. He made some excuse which was inaudible and his Lordship said he would not take any further action, but May should apologise to the unfortunate man who had to take his place on the jury.

ADJOURNED.

The case in which Choi Cheung Li is charged with intending to defraud his creditors was adjourned.

This concluded the Sessions.

PAKHOI.

[FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.]

January 8th.

CONSULAR CHANGE.

Monsieur G. Lecomte, Vice-Consul for France at this port, after a stay of a year and a half, during which he made many friends, left for France, via Hongkong, on the 19th ultimo. Monsieur Lecomte's health did not thrive in this climate; he had malarial fever. His hasty departure, I understand, is due to his recent illness. Monsieur A. Guibert, his successor, accompanied by Madame Guibert and child arrived here on the 23rd ultimo.

NEW COMMISSIONER.

Mr. J. F. Olesen, Commissioner of Customs, arrived here on the 6th instant to fill the post left vacant by the departure of Commissioner Johnston, who left for England last month on four months' leave.

CONCERT.

A soiree musicale was held in the French School House on the night of the New Year. It was promoted by the French Colony, and was a great success.

A HUMOROUS ROBBER.

Not many weeks ago several travellers from Yunnan were attacked by a band of highway robbers, but as the former were well armed, they resisted and soon put the latter to flight. The travellers reached here in safety. In the meantime some of the robbers were arrested by the authorities on other charges. One of them confessed to having been engaged at robbery, and on being called to disclose the whereabouts of others of his fraternity, he said that he knew some of them who were very successful and who were in the town with a considerable booty. The prisoner was taken along the boarding-houses to look for the men he accused, and soon they were found and arrested. He had pointed out the travellers who had just beaten off his gang! The travellers protested their innocence, but as the soldiers insisted on the performance of their duty, the accused had no alternative but to give in, but before doing so they insisted that an inventory of their valuables, consisting mostly of native opium, should be written down, besides asking that they be taken to Limchow at once for trial, where they were confident they would be released on proving their innocence. They were forthwith escorted thither, together with eleven other prisoners. At the trial, the seven travellers successfully proved their innocence and were escorted back triumphantly. On the way, fire crackers were let off, by way of apology, till they reached the boarding-house in which they were arrested.

CANTON.

[FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.]

January 11th.

THE ANTI-FOREIGN VICEROY.

It is reported that Viceroy Shum has given private instructions to all the military officers enjoining them not to wear foreign socks or rubber shoes. By abstaining, they will show patriotism and preserve their military dignity.

CHINESE INVENTIVENESS: SMOKERS' NOVELTY.

The boycott of American goods has given an impetus to local industry. Since the condemnation of American cigarettes a large cigarette factory was established here and has now a large and prosperous business. Following in the wake of its foreign predecessors, the Wing Fook Company has tried to make its produce as attractive as possible and has now on the market a novelty in the shape of a combination packet of cigarettes and matches. This is not a bad idea. The cardboard packets contain 10 or 20 cigarettes with 10 or 20 matches respectively. The sides of the packet are provided with a chemical composition, allowing the match to be struck thereon. This novelty is finding favour among Chinese smokers and the factory is doing a roaring business. This is perhaps the first instance in which a native concern shows signs of inventiveness; the conservative Chinaman having hitherto left this branch of commerce entirely undisputed in the hands of Westerners. Who can say that our fashions and the latest crazes will not ten years later come from China?

JAPANESE TRAINING.

Viceroy Shum has selected twelve of the most efficient amongst the officers trained by the Japanese to instruct the 4,000 recruits that have lately been enrolled for the Southern army.

CHINESE SPORTS.

The inter-school sports organized by the Board of Education took place yesterday afternoon on the spacious parade ground outside the East Gate and were attended by an immense crowd. It is thought that no fewer than 100,000 spectators were present. The gathering was certainly the largest that has been witnessed here the ground was one dense black mass of moving heads. The sports went off very well.

THE FOG.

Owing to the dense fog encountered on the way up, all the Hongkong river boats arrived here very late to-day.

[FROM ANOTHER CORRESPONDENT.]

On the 10th, the fourth annual graduating exercises, the ceremony of presenting diplomas to the medical students, and of the opening of Hackett Lecture Hall, took place in the Hackett Medical College for Women. Among those present were the United States Consul-General, Dr. A. A. Fulton and Mrs. Fulton (the founder of the institution), Wen Taotai (representing His Excellency the Viceroy Shum), Rev. C. D. Cousins, Mr. Owen E. Pomeroy, Dr. C. A. Hayes, Rev. S. G. Tope, Mrs. Mary H. Fulton M.D., Mrs. Hogg, the lady Dr. Shi-Min Hing, and the lady Dr. Lo Shau Wan.

This institution has done immense good to the inhabitants of Canton and surrounding districts, especially in the line of midwifery, nursing, women and children's diseases, and is greatly appreciated.

January 12th.

THE BOYCOTT.

Viceroy Shum has issued another proclamation owing to urgent representations made by the United States Consul General. The people are prohibited from holding meetings and are particularly warned against coercing their fellow-countrymen and preventing them from dealing in American goods. The Viceroy enjoins the people to resume their usual business and to leave the settlement of the amendment of the Exclusion Act to the two Governments interested and to await patiently the result of the negotiations that are now proceeding between the Chinese and American Governments. Viceroy Shum says that the proclamation must be obeyed under penalty of severe punishment. The people believe here that the Viceroy is acting under instructions from the Central Government, as he was known to be rather

partial to the boycott movement. His Excellency is known to be one of the strongest advocates of "China for the Chinese."

H. & S. BANK v. LAU-HOK-SHUN.

The Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation is suing to recover \$1,500,000 advanced to the Wung Fung Company. Title deeds of properties belonging to Lau Hok Shun were deposited with the Bank as a guarantee. Lau Hok Shun's accountant denies that his master was a party to the transaction and states in a petition addressed to the Nam-Hoi that his master had simply deposited the deeds with the Wung Fung Company and that the latter had no authority to pledge them. Consul General Scott has repeatedly addressed despatches to the Viceroy on the subject and has lately requested the Viceroy to fix a limit to the time within which Lau Hok Shun should appear before the Nam-Hoi Court so that the case may be tried, and that should defendant fail to appear that his properties may be seized. The Viceroy has complied with the Consul's request and has sent a dispatch to Viceroy Chou Fu requesting him to notify Lau Hok Shun, who is in Shanghai, that he must return immediately to Canton.

RIVER POLICE.

The inauguration of this new establishment will take place on the 15th inst.

CANTON-HANKOW RAILWAY.

VICEROY AND PEOPLE AT VARIANCE.

[From Our Canton Correspondent.]

In the presence of a meeting of friends and one uninvited official (Wen Tsung-Yao), Lai Kwai-pui, on the 9th inst, discussed the Viceroy's method of raising funds for the construction of the Canton-Hankow Railway. That method involved a seventy per cent. increase of the duty on building materials (Toi-pau), an increase of the salt and field taxes, and the imposition of a boat tax. These things were described as the last straw. The uninvited official interpolated, "That is His Excellency's order. The only way to cure you obstructionists is to behead some of you."

This pleasant remark evoked strong protests.

On the 14th inst., a general meeting of officials, merchants, and gentry was held, to decide (as Viceroy Shum put it) who was to make the line, officials or merchants. There was a fully representative assembly, numbering about 300. At this meeting it was added that the Viceroy's scheme included taxation of rich men (Pai-kuen).

Mr. Lai Kwai-pui, representing seventy-two Guilds, said they had lost confidence in the officials. If the line were left to the merchants entirely, they would soon raise the money by shares. Taxation was already too heavy. If the officials kept control, shares would not sell.

A voice: "They (officials) want to make money out of it."

Mr. Lai pointed out that the officials had already, without consulting those who had to provide the money, appointed presidents and vice-presidents.

There were some more interruptions, with words irrelevant and strong, and Mr. Lai was goaded into this retort to the prefect, "Your master, the Viceroy! What has he done? What good? Since he came to this province, you dangle his name as a threat. He has made many taxes; what has been done with the money?"

Another (Mr. Leong Shu-shan) remarked that the Viceroy had published no accounts.

The Viceroy's Deputy (Chou Cho-yam), thumping the table, and roaring: "It is the Viceroy's order. You must all obey."

The Prefect (shouting): I will cause you all to be arrested if you don't.

Teacups went smashing to the floor, and the meeting broke up in disorder.

There were many complaints that they could not enjoy the freedom of speech granted by Imperial Decree.

Late that night Mr. Lai Kwai-pui was arrested in his house, by a strong posse, and locked up. The arrest has enraged the people, and meetings of protest are being held. The Viceroy is to be denounced to the Throat. Resolutions to resist have been passed by various bodies, and riots are feared.

Writing on Tuesday, the 16th, our Correspondent adds:—

Several thousand gentry, merchants, and scholars assembled at the shrine of Kung Futsz, and discussed the arrest of their spokesman.

The ex-Viceroy of Fu-kien and Chekiang (Hui Ying-kwai), an old man of three score and twelve, presided. He said he had never, even when he held office, felt himself in a more responsible position than now. He would not have consented to emerge from his retirement if he had not believed the matter of vital importance to all Kwangtung. So long as he had breath he would protest against such procedure; and he intended to go to Peking to lay the matter before the Throne. The arrest of Mr. Lai (of Taotai rank) without Imperial warrant was illegal.

The multitude lustily applauded the veteran patriot. Petitions were numerous signed, and telegrams sent by special messenger to Hongkong for transmission to Peking.

It was decided not to have a strike, but to await a peaceful settlement. The removal of Viceroy Shum is, however, demanded.

A VICEREGAL EXPLANATION.

THE SPIRIT OF REBELLION DENOUNCED.

Our Canton Correspondent sends a translation of a proclamation by Viceroy Shum issued to allay public resentment at the arrest of Lai Kwai-pui.

In the beginning it says that the Yuet-Han concession was redeemed in order that the line might be completed, and for this three million taels are required. In addition, debentures for a million taels have to be redeemed by the Kwangtung Government, as its share. In this connection it was absolutely necessary to impose new taxation, and he had distributed this in the best way, oppressing no one section of the public. The merchants did not object at first. The proclamation then goes on:—Unexpectedly, on the 9th and 10th inst., the gentry, Leong Shew-shan, Lai Kwai-pui, Li Shew-yuen, and others had the audacity to convene a meeting of the gentry to discuss my plans, and instigated the merchants to repudiate what they had said and made them sign a document expressing their unwillingness to increase the Toi Pau tax so as to obstruct my policy and to avail themselves of this opportunity to ignore my commands. I at first thought that Li Shew-yuen was the only person doing all this, and I would have taken no notice of the matter, as I consider that Li Shew-yuen is a low-born and shameless individual and that he was not worth being reprimanded. But I find that Lai Kwai-pui and Leong Shew-shan are both being concerned in the matter. They are both prominent members of the gentry, are of noble family, and for generations have received Imperial favours and benefits. On the occasion of the redemption of the railway they were both appointed representatives of the Kwangtung province. They both know the difficulty there is to raise funds for the building of the line and should have taken the lead to devise plans and exhort the people to obey my commands and bring the matter to the desired end. Why should they obstruct me? Contrary to my expectations, on the 12th inst. these two members of the gentry and others at a meeting in the Kwong-choi Hospital, where I had deputed Wong Ping-yau, Taotai, a Hong Kong Man-wing, both directors of the railway, Wing Tsung-yao, Koung Shum-shan, assistant directors, the Prefect, the Nam-Hoi and Poon-Yu Magistrates, the superintendent of Railway Affairs, and the Superintendent of Likin, instead of exhorting the members of the 72 guilds to endorse my proposals, which they seemed at first willing to do, created a great noise and talked in a most boisterous manner, insulting the officials present and slandering the Government. Lai Kwai-pui had the audacity to speak to the people and made use of expressions such as "Though the people in Formosa have become Japanese subjects and are subject to stringent regulations it would be better for us to do the same than to be subjects of China." Such language implies ignorance of the laws of China. The insulting language used by Lai towards the officials is a trifling matter, but the above language is a serious matter, and if such a spirit should spread it would not only

obstruct the railway affair but will mislead the public and involve it in serious trouble.

Since my arrival in Kwangtung I have devoted my time day and night in referring matters of public grievance. I am the first Viceroy who ordered the dismissal of yamen runners and gave instruction to my subordinates to do likewise. This was done to protect the merchants and people in general. I have cashiered, imposed heavy fines and banished all those civil and military officials who have abused and tyrannized the people. This I did without fear of incurring animosity and making enemies. I did it to protect the merchants and people. I have been personally at war for three years in Kwangsi to punish and exterminate the rebels, and the rebellion has been quelled. The Two Kwang were in need of funds to quell the Kwangsi rebellion. I took the responsibility of raising loans in other provinces and have imposed heavy fines on covetous and depraved officials, and took their ill-gotten gains from their purses. I never increased the likin or field taxes to raise funds for the above purpose. I did all this for the good of the merchants and people. The revenue derived from the Pak-kap-piu lottery, was over one million taels, but I abolished it on account of the mischief it worked amongst the people. This I did to protect you merchants and people. During the three years I have been in Kwangtung I have exerted myself to the utmost to help the people to make a livelihood until I became sick and was confined to bed for months. I am aware that I lack ability. My intentions, however, were good, but I lack the strength to carry them out. I have been unable to carry out all the public works and have consequently asked the Government to let me resign, but the Throne has not given me permission to do so. So long as I remain Viceroy of Kwangtung I shall endeavour to carry out my duties. The railway in question is the Kwangtung railway; as soon as it is completed the merchants and people will receive all the benefit from it. The officials who shall be appointed and come from other provinces to Kwangtung cannot put the railway into a cart and take it away to their homes. I have made investigation and find that on account of the building of railways in the provinces of Yunnan and Sze-chuan the salt and field taxes have been increased, yielding several million taels. All this is paid by the merchants and people of those provinces. All of them are contented and did so willingly. Besides the above An-hui, Kiangsi and other provinces, for instance, have raised their own fund for building railways, and it is equitable for a province to make use of its resources to carry out schemes for the benefit of the province. I know that there are commercial difficulties in Kwangtung and I therefore do not wish to impose an increased tax on any particular branch of commerce. I only desire to raise a fund of over one million taels from several lines which would not be so hard on them. Besides I will give them in exchange for the increased taxes shares in the railway concern. They will derive profits from the earnings of the railway and the power of controlling its operations will also be in their hands. Although I have appointed directors and assistants they have not drawn any salary from the railway concern. Unexpectedly Leong Shaw-shan and others, who do not understand common equity, deliberately obstructed my plans. I never had the slightest thought that they would do so. From inquiries made I have discovered that Lai Kwai-pui is a very mean, vulgar and unpopular man. When he was an official in Fokien he left a very bad name behind. On his return to Canton his conduct has been very perverse towards his native people. This time he has made use of expressions that are seditious and has treated Chinese law with contempt. I have given instructions to search him and keep him under vigilant surveillance. I will discriminate their crimes and faults and will memorialize the Throne to have them cashiered. If Lai and Leong will admit that they are wrong, I will memorialize the Throne to have them reinstated in their titles. I shall cause them to be arrested and will have them punished with the utmost severity. Being afraid that you people might listen to the depraved gentry

who would spread false rumours, on account of this I have issued this proclamation written on a board and have had it hung outside my yamen to inform the public. I command you all to take notice and abstain from disobeying this proclamation.

[Note by our Correspondent.—Unofficial people present emphatically deny that Lai Kwai-pui used any seditious expressions.]

CHAMBER OF COMMERCE AGAINST VICEROY.

At a meeting held yesterday (16th inst.) at the Chamber of Commerce, it was decided to put the increased taxation question to the vote. Two lists were laid on the table and the merchants were requested to sign one or the other according to their willingness or unwillingness to accept the increase. The list expressing opposition to the increase was covered with numerous names, and after the lists are chopped with the seals of the 72 guilds the document will be sent together with a petition to all the high officials of the province with the exception of the Viceroy, who is temporarily ignored. Speeches were numerous and most of them were pacific, exhorting the merchants and people to observe order and not to resort to violent measures. It was also decided to send delegates to enquire after Lai Kwai-pui's health, and to convey to him the members' appreciation of his courageous conduct, as he was starving and suffering for the people's cause.

January 20th.

THE CANTON-HANKOW RAILWAY TROUBLE.

The Prefect of Canton, Chan-Mong-tsang, and the Nam-Ho and Pui-Yu Magistrates have issued jointly a proclamation, which dwells on the importance of raising funds for the construction of the Canton-Hankow railway, and deals with the obstructive attitude of the people's representatives.

It then runs on as follows:—"The idea of redeeming the railway originated from the gentry and merchants and at that time even your representatives Lai-Kwai-pui and Leong-Shew-shan were of opinion that there was want of union amongst yourselves, and requested the Viceroy to take the lead in the matter. It is only proper that you should adhere to your word and prevent the affair from falling into the hands of the foreigners who are watching the scheme with covetous eyes. If this railway cannot be carried out by us, we shall have to repay the capital borrowed with the interest. Besides, when the line is completed all the profits will go to the people, as it was plainly explained in the Viceroy's proclamation the other day. In perusing the "Express" issued by the Chamber of Commerce, we observe that it practically states that we are desirous of using oppressive measures to increase the taxes and thus bring calamity on the people. We are positive that these expressions did not come from the people of Kwangtung but were indited by one or two individuals. It is a great pity that on account of one or two persons, who have aroused and misled the people, this great scheme should be destroyed. If you think that the increased taxes are really oppressive, you gentry and merchants are perfectly at liberty to suggest other means to raise funds. His Excellency the Viceroy has always listened to and taken the people's advice. For instance, recently some people obtained the monopoly to export *sze-mew* rice (first quality rice) from Kwangtung. The charitable corporations of Canton memorialized the Viceroy praying that the monopoly be cancelled as the production of rice in the province is not equal to the demand. His Excellency at once cancelled the monopoly. We are perfectly prepared to submit your grievances to the Viceroy, which you cannot do yourselves, and will straighten up things on your behalf. We never dreamt of such a catastrophe as this; of officials being slandered and insulted by one or two individuals. We are certain that those gentry and merchants who have common-sense (and they are many) have been equally surprised to see such a sudden attitude taken against the officials and the Government by Lai, Leong and others. We are, however, aware that such views are shared by the minority. His Excellency has memorialized the Throne to cashier Lai and Leong and to punish them not only on account of opposing the railway scheme but chiefly for having slandered the Government.

Merchants must not listen to the evil advice of scoundrels which might bring severe calamities on themselves. The question of raising funds for the building of the railway is a very important matter. If more popular means can be devised to raise the funds, we shall be glad.

IMPERIAL MESSAGE.

Viceroy Shum received yesterday the following two telegrams:—

"January 17th.

"Imperial Edict by cable to Viceroy Shum.

"Heard that owing to the increase of taxes in Kwangtung people are protesting and greatly excited; even foreigners judging it advisable to land troops as a protective measure. Forward particulars immediately about present situation of affairs. The matter of taxation should be discussed in the proper spirit with the people and measures of violence should not be resorted to to coerce them. The deputies appear to have disregarded the public welfare and seem to have conducted themselves improperly. You, Viceroy Shum, have always treated the people equitably and have always shown severity to the officials. We rely on you therefore to avoid trouble and preserve order for the welfare of Kwangtung."

CHANG CHIH-TUNG'S VIEW.

Telegram received by Viceroy Shum from Chang Chih-tung as follows:—

"January 17th.

"Deeply regret that matters have taken an unfavourable aspect for the welfare of Kwangtung and an innocent man implicated. Grieves me very much."

Another message from the Waiwupu is said to have reached the Viceroy yesterday afternoon. It appears that the Peking Board, while upholding the Viceroy's action, enjoins him to act with moderation. Our correspondent comments:—

It will be observed from the foregoing that there seems to be a climb down on the official side, and that overtures are being practically made to settle the matter amicably. The people are, however, determined to carry their point and unless the question is promptly settled, complications are liable to occur after New Year's Day. The officials are said to be at their wits' end, as they never expected the public worm to turn in this manner.

A STARTLING WARNING.

The following mysterious letter was received by the U. S. Consul to-day:—

"I have the honour to report to your Excellency the following matter for your information. In consequence of the ill-feeling created by the boycott of American goods, coupled with the recent trouble over the meeting at the Kwong Chai Hospital, whereby the people's wrath has been raised to the highest pitch against the Viceroy, it is to be feared that the people will work mischief to implicate the Viceroy in some trouble with some foreigners. The occasion would be seized to bring about the assassination of the Viceroy in the confusion which would naturally follow armed intervention by foreigners. The murder of the American Consul General is also planned by the bad characters, so as to bring about reprisals by the gunboats in port, which might bombard the city, thus affording the people the opportunity of starting an insurrection, in the course of which the Viceroy could be easily put to death. I strongly advise you, if you value your life, not to expose yourself under any account by going into the city. Please do not discredit the above.

(Signed) A Sincere Friend."

THE VISIT OF H. R. H. PRINCE ARTHUR OF CONNAUGHT.

We understand that the Reception Committee or the entertainment of H. R. H. Prince Arthur of Connaught on his arrival in the Colony next month, decided at a meeting held on Jan. 12 to invite the public, both European and Chinese, to illuminate their premises on the night of February 10th along the route to be followed by H. R. H. in proceeding to and returning from the Ko Shin Theatre, where he is dining with the Chinese community. The details of the route will, we understand, be published shortly. It is also proposed to invite residents on the Peak whose houses face the Harbour to place a red lamp in each of their windows.

COMPANIES.

THE CHINA PROVIDENT LOAN AND MORTGAGE CO., LD.

The ninth ordinary general meeting of this Company was held at the office of the General Managers, Messrs. Shewan, Tomes and Co., on January 20th. Hon. Mr. R. Shewan presided, and there were also present—Messrs. J. S. Van Buren, H. P. White, Chow Hing Kee and Dr. J. W. Noble (consulting committee), Mr. G. Somerville (secretary), and Messrs. G. M. Bain, W. D. Braidwood, E. W. Terry, J. McGubbin, R. Robertson, E. D. Haskell, A. Babington, Fung Wa Chun, Fung Fai Tong and Chan King.

The CHAIRMAN said:—Gentlemen,—As you have had the Report and Accounts before you for some time we will dispense with readings of them now. The gross earnings for 1905 amount to \$131,721.22 as against \$132,860 for 1904, so we are able to pay the same dividend as before, viz., 8 per cent., and place \$20,000 to reserve, which will bring that fund up to the round figure of \$100,000, leaving \$4,791.73 to be carried forward to the credit of the present year's account. Our loans on the provident system, you will notice, continue to slowly increase, and the security for these loans being so excellent is a very satisfactory feature. As to our other loans, we have, of course, to consider each one separately on its merits, and the risk depends more or less on our good judgment, but I can only assure you that we never take any undue risks, and not one of these loans gives us the slightest uneasiness. When you consider that although we have paid a regular dividend of 8 per cent. ever since the Company started, besides accumulating a reserve of \$100,000 out of profits, we have not incurred any bad debts (beyond the most trifling), you must, I think, recognise that, as I said last year, we are not careless on the point of security. There is nothing in the balance sheet that requires special comment. The items are all very much the same as last year except that the Light and Power debentures having all been paid off, that item disappears. Our holdings of Green Island Cement Co's shares have, of course, been increased by the new issue which we took up. Unless any gentleman has any questions to ask, I propose that the report and accounts as presented be adopted and passed.

There being no questions, the proposition was seconded by Dr. NOBLE, and carried unanimously.

Mr. BRAIDWOOD proposed the re-election of Messrs. J. S. Van Buren, Chow Hing Kee, H. P. White and Dr. Noble to the consulting committee.

Mr. MCGUBBIN seconded, and the motion was carried.

On the motion of Mr. BAIN seconded by Mr. TERRY, Messrs. A. O'D. Gourdin and W. H. Potts were re-appointed auditors.

The CHAIRMAN.—That is all the business, gentlemen. Dividend warrants are ready now.

HONGKONG LAND RECLAMATION CO., LTD.

The fifth ordinary meeting of shareholders in the Hongkong Land Reclamation Company, Ltd., was held at the Company's Offices, Victoria Buildings, on Saturday. The Hon. Mr. C. W. Dickson presided, and the others present were Sir Paul Chater, Messrs. E. Shellim, Ho Tung (directors), M. S. Northcote (secretary), F. M. de Graca, J. M. de Graca, Ho Fook, Ho Kom Tong, A. Shelton Hooper, Lo Cheung Shui, H. N. Mody, J. Orange, J. C. Peter, and H. Percy Smith.

The Secretary, having read the notice calling the meeting,

The CHAIRMAN said:—Gentlemen,—Our reclamation at Kowloon Point was completed during the year, the land thus resulting being divided into five sections, comprising three Marine and two Inland Lots, with a total area of 582,508 square feet. One of the marine lots has already been sold at the price of \$4 per square foot and the remaining area we still hold—382,821 square feet—with a frontage of 778 feet. None of these lots have been written up in value but stand in the Company's books at

their actual cost. Our other property, Kowloon Marine Lot 49, continues to yield a fair return and the right to reclaim in front of it has recently been acquired at a premium of 30 cents per sq. ft., which was paid before the end of the year, and is included in the sum appearing in the accounts as invested in property. The reclaimed area will approximate 284,000 sq. ft. and have a frontage of 630 feet, with deep water. I have mentioned these full details in order that you may have all possible data from which to form for yourselves an opinion as to the Company's future prospects. The accounts, I think, are self-explanatory, but if there is any further information you would like to have I shall be glad to give it.

There being no questions,

The CHAIRMAN moved the adoption of the report and accounts.

Mr. ORANGE seconded, and the proposition was carried unanimously.

The CHAIRMAN then moved the re-appointment of Messrs. A. J. Raymond and E. Shellim as directors, which was seconded by Mr. Ho Kom Tong and agreed to.

The auditors, Messrs. W. H. Potts and A. Gourdin, were re-elected on the motion of the Chairman, seconded by Mr. Percy Smith.

The Chairman—Thank you for your attendance. Dividend warrants will be issued on Monday.

The report said:—

Gentlemen,—The Directors have now to submit to you a general statement of the affairs of the Company, and balance sheet for the year ending December 31st, 1905.

The net profits for the year, including \$4,557.32 brought forward from last account, after paying all charges, amount to \$555,781.09. It is now proposed to pay a dividend of 8 per cent. on the paid up capital and a bonus of 4 per cent. thereon—after providing for which and writing off Directors' and Auditors' fees there remains a balance of \$383,053.73 to be carried to credit of a new profit and loss account.

DIRECTORS.

Messrs. A. J. Raymond and E. Shellim now retire, but offer themselves for re-election.

AUDITORS.

The accounts have been audited by Messrs. W. H. Potts and A. O'D. Gourdin, who now retire and are recommended for re-election.

C. W. DICKSON,
Chairman.

BALANCE-SHEET

To December, 31st 1905.

Dec. 31st, 1905.	LIABILITIES.	\$	c.
Capital.—25,000 shares at \$100 each=			
\$2,500,000, of which are issued 12,500			
shares at \$100 each=	\$1,250,000,	75	
per share paid up		937,500.	00
Accounts payable		8,642.	00
Balance of profit and loss account		555,781.	09
		\$1,501,923.	09

Dec. 31st, 1905.	ASSETS.	\$	c.
Cash		946.	81
Amount invested in mortgages		271,000.	00
Amount invested in property		1,072,332.	12
Furniture		658.	33
Accounts receivable	\$456,985.	83	
Less loans payable	300,000.	00	
		156,985.	83
		\$1,501,923.	09

PROFIT AND LOSS ACCOUNT.

Dec. 31st, 1905.	Dr.	\$	c.
To charges account		6,822.	05
To repairs to property		339.	70
To Crown rent account		1,894.	00
To Government rates account		445.	46
To Fire insurance account		487.	75
Balance to be appropriated as follows:—			
Managing directors' fees	\$55,122.	36	
Directors' fees	5,000.	00	
Auditors' fees	100.	00	
Dividend of 8 per cent. for the year	75,000.	00	
Bonus of 4 per cent. for the year	37,500.	00	
Balance to be carried to new account	383,053.	73	
		555,781.	09
		\$555,781.	05

Jan. 1st to Dec. 31st, 1905.	Cr.	\$	c.
By Balance from 1904		4,557.	32
By Interest		1,233.	90
By Rents		40,252.	02
By Scrip fees		2.	00
By Profit on sales		519,735.	81
		\$565,771.	05

CORRESPONDENCE.

OLD TAIPINGSHAN.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "DAILY PRESS."

SIR,—In the columns of your valuable paper there have appeared within the last few weeks over the pseudonym "Spectator," two letters dealing with a neighbourhood which lies in the very heart of China town between Queen's Road and Blake Garden; described by your correspondent as "the last remnant of plague-stricken Tai-ping-shan." As an old resident and one interested, I have made it my business to visit the streets particularly referred to at different hours and I think "Spectator" has not overstated his case. During part of the night the place is a veritable pandemonium embracing all the most horrible features of modern native life centered within an area scarcely exceeding one acre. It would be interesting if a census could be obtained showing age and occupation of the inhabitants of this local Hades; as, if this were done, I feel sure its life would be a very short one.

Much has been said of late about kidnapping and the juvenile slave trade which is carried on in the Colony (vide your leader on Saturday) and while such a place as the "remnant of Tai-ping-shan," is allowed, to exist and flourish can there be any wonder that this child-slaughter continues? I should say the first step would be to turn out the whole neighbourhood, transplanting the inhabitants to more desirable premises such as can be found ready for immediate occupation just beyond the Gas Works. I allude more particularly to a block of houses on the east side of Hill Road, newly built and just completed which are capable of accommodating at least three hundred inmates. Hill Road is a very wide thoroughfare with a large nullah running through it for carrying off the storm water, and at the same time it benefits by the harbour tidal flow. There could not be a more suitable place chosen as a change from over-crowded Tai-ping-shan. I would suggest that the place be inspected. There are also many other houses close by which could be made to serve the purpose if necessary.—Yours truly,

PRO BONO PUBLICO.

CHINESE LOSSES IN THE WAR.

CLAIM FOR COMPENSATION

It is estimated by Japanese vernacular contemporaries that 20,000 Chinese were killed in Manchuria during the war, and damage to the extent of 10 million dollars is stated to have been sustained to Chinese property.

The Chinese Government intended to demand compensation for this loss from the Japanese and Russians, and it is reported that during the recent negotiations in Peking the Chinese plenipotentiaries hinted their intention to Baron Komura.

The Japanese representative pointed out the difficulty of establishing the responsibility of the parties, as it would be almost impossible to discriminate between the damage done by Japanese and by Russians. He declared that the Japanese Government would pay compensation for any damages that could be proved by evidence to have been done by the Japanese.

The Chinese plenipotentiaries finally decided to claim compensation from the Russian Government for the losses sustained by Chinese during the Vladivostok disturbance.

THE CHINA ASSOCIATION.

The N.C. Daily News learns that as the result of the representations made by Sir Charles Dudgeon and Mr. Bland on behalf of the China branch, when they were at home last summer, there is a probability of the China Association taking on a greater activity and becoming altogether more representative of British interests in China. Pending certain decisions by the London Association, the work of the Shanghai branch will be carried on by the following very strong provisional committee:—Messrs. J. O. P. Bland, W. B. Clayton, Sir Chas. J. Dudgeon, R. S. Freeman, Cecil Holliday, H. E. R. Hunter and E. B. Skottowe Mr. P. F. Lavers remaining Secretary.

COMMERCIAL.

SILK.

Messrs. A. R. Burkill & Sons' Silk Circular, dated Shanghai, January 6th, 1906, states:—The home markets are quiet. Gold Kiling is quoted in London at 12-1½ and in Lyons at Fcs. 34. Raw Silk.—Since the date of our last Circular a small business has been done in Tsatlees, about 200 bales being settled. Yellow Silks.—Are neglected. Hand Filatures.—Have been more in demand, and settlements both for the Continent and America are reported. Steam Filatures.—Have been confined to a few sales in fine sizes for Lyons. Waste-Silk.—The market continues very quiet. Stocks of many qualities are exhausted and are only small in any quality, and further supplies are not likely to be large.

SUGAR.

HONGKONG, 19th January.—A downward tendency continues, market being very dull.
 Shekloong, No. 1, White.....\$8.40 to \$8.45pc.
 Do. " 2, White..... 7.20 to 7.25 "
 Do. " 1, Brown..... 6.30 to 6.35 "
 Do. " 2, Brown..... 5.30 to 5.45 "
 Swatow, No. 1, White..... 8.00 to 8.10 "
 Do. " 2, White..... 7.10 to 7.15 "
 Do. " 1, Brown..... 8.00 to 6.05 "
 Do. " 2, Brown..... 5.60 to 5.65 "
 Foochow Sugar Candy.....10.50 to 10.60 "
 Shekloong 9.55 to 9.60 "

RICE.

HONGKONG, 19th January.—The prices are the same as when last reported.
 Saigon, Ordinary\$2.80 to \$2.55
 " Round, good quality..... 3.60 to 3.65
 " Long..... 3.70 to 3.75
 Sam, Field mill cleaned, No. 2 2.90 to 2.95
 " Garden, " No. 1..... 3.75 to 3.80
 " White..... 4.00 to 4.05
 " Fine Cargo 4.20 to 4.25

OPIUM.

HONGKONG, 19th January.

Quotations are:—Allow'ce net to 1 catty.
 Malwa New\$1020 to — per picul.
 Malwa Old\$1050 to — do.
 Malwa Older\$1100 to — do.
 Malwa V. Old.....\$1200 to — do.
 Persian fine quality...\$1150 to — do.
 Persian extra fine.....\$1200 to — do.
 Patna New\$940 to — per chest.
 Patna Old\$932½ to — do.
 Benares New\$920 to — do.
 Benares Old\$910 to — do.

PIECE GOODS.

Messrs. Noel, Murray & Co's Report on the Shanghai Piece Goods Trade, dated Shanghai, 7th January, 1906, states:—Our last report was dated the 21st ult., the Christmas holidays coming right on top of an already disorganised market, rendering any further remarks on our part before the close of the year unnecessary, if not impracticable. It is only expedient to say the last week of the year passed off very quietly, after the excitement that marked the preceding period, and no one seems to be any the wiser as to the exact cause of the sudden disturbance. It has apparently had the effect of superfluous steam, and amongst the trading classes, at all events, there is certainly the appearance of more confidence in the future. To comment on the trade of the past year would only be reiterating the great danger there is in the growing tendency for over trading. No one can deny that the heavy forward buying that was indulged in early last year was quite unwarranted. It was started by some of the over-sanguine dealers, and foreign importers were forced to follow suit in order to keep their long established cloths and chops on the market. There was really nothing to justify the recklessness which many of the buyers displayed, and it was not surprising that home manufacturers were puzzled to know the meaning of it. At one time it certainly looked as though anticipations would, to a great extent, be realised, but the series of unforeseen drawbacks we have so often dwelt upon, quite upset all hopes and calculations, the trade only being saved from dire disaster by the fortuitous strength of the Cotton market. It is beyond a doubt that, so far as the majority of the natives engaged in this trade are concerned, the last few months must have wiped out the profits of the last two years, and they are not out of the wood yet. During the interval, since our last was written, the agreement between Japan and China regarding the future of Manchuria has been concluded, and although no official details have been published it is believed that the following towns are opened to the trade of the world:—In

Shengking Province:—Feng-hwang-cheng, Lia-yang, Hsin-min-tun, Tichling, Tung-kiang-tao, Changtu and Fakumen. In Kirin Province:—Chang-chun, Kirin, Harbin, Hunchun and Sanchsin. In Amur Province:—Tsitsikar, Hailar, Algon and Manchuri (right on the Russo-Chinese frontier). The Japanese papers regard this consummation "as a natural sequel to Japan's continental policy. Indeed, the Russo-Japanese war was, in a word, a collision between Japan's open door policy and Russia's exclusiveness: and Japan having issued victorious from the conflict, it is only in the natural order of things that we now proceed to consummate one of our long-cherished objects." As they say, this opening of Manchuria will prove a decided boon to China. The natives in the interior are as yet a primitive, backward people, of but little wants, living almost entirely on what they raise and manufacture, and consequently they are behind-hand in point of intellectual and economic development, and the opening of the new marts will be an immense boon to them in the long run. The agreement confirms the principles of the "open door" and equal opportunity for all, so should be accepted with satisfaction by the other Powers that have interests in Manchuria. Current business has been of the most meagre description again, although there are signs that the depression is gradually being dispelled. The impression that was gaining ground that the markets in the interior were well supplied with goods is repudiated by the well-informed natives, who declare that it is only here stocks are at all excessive. During the last few days buyers for Tientsin have been picking up cheap lots, and there is also an enquiry from Newchwang for favorite cloths of American make. The steamer companies find some improvement in the requirements for space for Hankow, but Importers do not appear to notice it. Money is very tight still, and everything points to a very quiet time until after the China New Year holidays (which commence on the 25th inst.) are well over. Manchester is easier, presumably in sympathy with Cotton which dropped to 6.10d. but has since recovered to 6.23d. in Liverpool for Mid. American, and 8½d. for Egyptian. The latest New York quotation is 11.92 cents for July option. The export of Plain Cottons from Lancashire last month was 49 million yards to Hongkong and China, and 1,300 bales Yarn to Shanghai. The New York market is still very strong, and it is reported further re-sales of lighter weight cloth contracted for this have taken place there at a small profit, which would seem to be a highly desirable course to pursue. The market for Yarn is steadier, a fair amount of Indian Spinnings having been bought by the Newchwang dealers for delivery after China New Year. Cotton is quiet but steady. Stocks.—The usual forms have been sent out by the Chamber of Commerce for the returns of Stocks on the 31st December—it is sincerely to be hoped that holders will give this their earnest and prompt attention. Piece Goods.—The regular auctions of sound goods that have taken place during the last two weeks show a distinctly firmer feeling for all classes of goods, both Cotton and Woollen. Privately there has been scarcely anything doing from first hands, and what purchases have been made are simply of the usual New Year, complimentary kind.

MISCELLANEOUS IMPORTS.

HONGKONG, 19th January.—The prices ruling are as follows:—

COTTON YARN— per bale
 Bombay—Nos. 10 to 20, ... \$90.00 to \$128.00
 English—Nos. 16 to 24, ... 140.00 to 160.00
 " 22 to 24, ... 160.00 to 165.00
 " 28 to 32, ... 167.50 to 175.00
 " 38 to 42, ... 180.00 to 190.00

Reported sales 6,000 bales.

COTTON PIECE GOODS—

per piece
 Grey Shirtings—6 lbs. \$2.20 to \$2.25
 7 lbs. 2.30 to 2.40
 8.4 lbs. ... 3.00 to 4.00
 9 to 10 lbs. ... 4.10 to 5.30
 White Shirtings—54 to 56 rd. 2.80 to 3.00
 58 to 60 " 3.10 to 3.60
 64 to 66 " 3.80 to 5.40
 Fine 6.10 to 8.00
 Book-folds 5.30 to 8.10
 Victoria Lawns—12 yards ... 0.80 to 1.00
 T-Cloths—6lbs. (32 in.) Ord'y. 2.20 to 2.30
 7lbs. (32 ") " 2.70 to 3.00
 6lbs. (32 ") Mexs. 2.25 to 2.70
 7lbs. (32 ") " 2.90 to 3.20
 8 to 8.4 oz., (36 in.) 3.25 to 3.80
 Drills, English—40 yds., 13½ " 5.10 to 8.00
 to 14 lbs.)

MISCELLANEOUS EXPORTS.

HANKOW, 10th Jan., 1906.—The prices quoted are for the net shipping weight excluding cost of packing for export:—

Per picul.
 Cowhides, Best Selected..... Tls. 37.25
 Do. Seconds 83.00
 Buffalo hides, Best Selected 17.75
 Goatskins, untanned, chiefly white color .. 59.00
 Buffalo Horns, average 3-lbs. each 7.50
 White China Grass, Wuchang and/or Poochi..... 12.00
 White China Grass, Sinshan and/or Chayu .. 11.25
 Green China Grass, Szechuen (nom.)
 Jute 4.30
 White Vegetable Tallow, Kinchow 8.80
 White Vegetable Tallow, Pingchew and/or Mucheng 8.60
 White Vegetable Tallow, Mongyu (nom.)
 Green Vegetable Tallow, Kiyu 8.3
 Animal Tallow 10.0
 Gallnuts, usual shape 16.2
 Do. Plum do. 18.0
 Tobacco, Tingchow (nom.)
 Do. Wungkong " "
 Black Bristles " "
 Feathers, Grey and/or White Duck .. " "
 " " Wild Duck " "
 Turmeric 3.50
 Sesamum Seed 3.90
 Sesamum Seed Oil (nom.)
 Vegetable Tallow Seed Oil..... " "
 Wood Oil 8.30
 Tea Oil 10.00

Per steamer Tydeus, sailed on 5th January
 For Havre or Hamburg or London:—50 cases camphor. For Malta:—8 packages naval stores. For Rotterdam:—5 casks ginger, 86 rolls matting. 300 bales cassia, 20 bales split bamboo. For London:—375 bales waste silk, 26 rolls matting. 627 bales canes, 1,330 bags copper ore, 46 boxes crude camphor, 490 casks preserves, 450 cases preserves, 20 cases bristles, 50 casks soy, 154 bales feathers, 200 packages merchandise, 532 bales canes, 8,200 ingots copper, 18 cases personal effects, 4 cases cigars. For London or Glasgow:—250 casks ginger, 150 cases ginger. For London or Antwerp or Hamburg:—60 cases bristles, For London or Hamburg or Antwerp:—30 cases bristles. For London or Hamburg:—20 cases essential oil. For Manchester:—50 bales waste silk. For London or Hamburg:—77 bales galangal, 28 bales canes, 217 bales duck feathers, 33 bales duck feathers. For Antwerp:—100 bales split bamboo, 349 bags lead, 100 bales duck feathers, 20,072 ingots copper.

Per P. & O. steamer Delta, sailed on 13th January. For London:—5 cases tea (from Foochow), 125 bales raw silk, 12 cases feathers, 4 packages sundries, 4 cases curios, 8 cases silk, 1 case wo odware, 9 cases cigars, 750 bales hemp. 21 cases chinaware, 165 rolls mats. For Manchester 100 bales waste silk, 3 cases silks. For Gibraltar:—3 cases cigars, 1 case silks, 1 case curios. For St. Chamond:—10 bales raw silk. For Lyons:—412 bales raw silk. For Marseilles:—2 cases bird's feathers, 13 cases silks, 20 bales raw silk.

Per steamer Gneisneau, sailed on 17th January
 For Port Said:—7 cases bamboo fans. For Genoa:—500 bales raw silk, 200 cases cassia, 20 cases essential oil, 17 cases fans, 9 cases chinaware. For Montevidéo:—4 cases silk, 1 case paperware. For Antwerp:—200 bales bamboo, 30 cases preserves, 5 cases human hair. For Antwerp or Hamburg:—60 cases bristles, 50 bales feathers. For Amsterdam:—131 rolls matting. For Rotterdam: 69 bales canes, 55 cases ginger, 25 tea sticks. For Bremerhaven:—10 cases human hair. For Bremen:—100 bales feathers, 43 rolls matting. For Hamburg:—556 bales feathers, 49 half-chests tea, 20 cases essential oil, 20 cases vermilion, 18 bales canes, 8 cases chinaware, 8 cases bristles, 5 cases camphorwoodtrunks, 4 cases blackwoodware, 2 cases feathers, 1 case silk. For Hamburg or London:—25 cases bristles. For Copenhagen:—100 rolls matting, 7 bales feathers, 2 cases lacquerware. For London:—850 rolls matting, 50 cases essential oil.

Per P. & O. steamer Palawan, sailed on 17th January. For London:—4 cases cigars, 4 cases camphor oil, 560 packages tea (from Foochow) 3 cases lacquer, 63 cases chinaware, 120 bales canes, 1 case sporting guns, 220 casks preserves, 2 boxes private effects, 100 bales waste silk, 334 rolls mats and matting, 1 case silk, 2 packages sundries, 75 packages merchandise (optional) 2 packages rattan chairs, 2 cases curios. For Marseilles:—50 bales waste silk.

EXCHANGE.

MONDAY, 22nd January.

ON LONDON.—	
Telegraphic Transfer	2/0 1/2
Bank Bills, on demand	2/0 1/2
Bank Bills, at 30 days' sight	2/0 1/2
ON LONDON.—	
Bank Bills, at 4 months' sight	2/0 1/2
Credits, at 4 months' sight	2/1
Documentary Bills, 4 months' sight	2/1 1/2
ON PARIS.—	
Bank Bills, on demand	257
Credits 4 months' sight	261 1/2
ON GERMANY.—	
On demand	209
ON NEW YORK.—	
Bank Bills, on demand	49 1/2
Credits, 60 days' sight	50 1/2
ON BOMBAY.—	
Telegraphic Transfer	152
ON CALCUTTA.—	
Bank, on demand	152 1/2
Telegraphic Transfer	152
Bank, on demand	152 1/2
ON SHANGHAI.—	
Bank, at sight	71 1/2
Private, 30 days' sight	72 1/2
ON YOKOHAMA.—	
On demand	99 1/2
ON MANILA.—	
On demand	100 1/2
ON SINGAPORE.—	
On demand	14 p.c.p.m.
ON BATAVIA.—	
On demand	122 1/2
ON HAIPHONG.—	
On demand	1 p.c.p.m.
ON SAIGON.—	
On demand	1 p.c.p.m.
ON BANGKOK.—	
On demand	60 1/2
SEVEREIGNS, Bank's Buying Rate	\$9.70
GOLD LEAF, 100 fine, per tael	\$52.20
BAR SILVER, per oz.	30 1/2

SHARE REPORT.

HONGKONG, 19th January, 1906.—Business continues slack, but rates generally are fairly well-maintained. There is nothing of any importance, or any special features to report. Exchange on London T/T 2/0 1/2.

BANKS.—Hongkong and Shanghai have changed hands during the week at \$897 1/2 and \$895, closing steady at the latter rate; the latest London rate is £95. 10s. Nationals unchanged and without business.

MARINE INSURANCES.—Unions, after small sales at \$730 and \$725, close at \$730. China Traders during the week have been placed in small lots at \$90, \$90 1/2 and \$91, closing at the last named rate. Cantons have found several buyers at \$320 and close steady at that. Yangtszes and North Chinas are quoted at Shanghai rates, there having been no local business in the stocks. The Union Insurance Society advertises a dividend payable in April.

FIRE INSURANCES.—Both Hongkongs and Chinas have been on offer during the week at quotations without inducing business.

SHIPPING.—Hongkong, Canton and Macao have been in some demand at \$25 1/2 and a fair business has been put through at that rate, and at \$25 earlier in the week. Douglasses have been placed at the advanced rate of \$40, closing steady. Indos, after sales at \$94 and \$95, close quieter at \$94. Other stocks under this heading call for no remarks.

REFINERIES.—China Sugars have been dealt in at \$205 and \$207 1/2 cash, and at \$210 and \$212 for March; also at \$213 for April, the market closing fairly steady at \$207 1/2 cash. Luzons remain neglected and without business.

MINING.—Raubs have been on offer during the week at 4 1/2.

DOCKS, WHARVES AND GODOWNS.—Hongkong and Whampoa Docks, after further small sales at \$163, advanced to \$165 with sales; the market, however, closes somewhat quieter at \$165 sellers. Kowloon Wharves have again changed hands at \$98 and close with a limited number of shares on offer at that rate. Farnhams have been placed locally at Tls. 128, while Shanghai also quotes Tls. 128.

LANDS, HOTELS AND BUILDINGS.—With the exception of a few sales of Humphreys at \$12 1/2 and Kowloon Lands at \$40 1/2 and \$41, we have nothing to report under this heading.

COTTON MILLS.—Ewos have advanced to Tls. 47, and Loan Kung Mows to Tls. 6 1/2 in Shanghai. Hongkongs have buyers at \$12 1/2.

MISCELLANEOUS.—Laundry Shares (new) have changed hands at \$6 1/2. China Light and Powers at \$9, and China Providents at \$9.30. Icos have advanced to \$240 with buyers and no sellers. We have nothing else to report under this heading.

Closing quotations are as follows:—

COMPANY.	PAID UP.	QUOTATIONS.
Alhambra		
	\$200	\$100, sellers
Banks—		
Hongkong & Shanghai	\$125	\$895, sellers
National B. of China		London, £95. 10
A. Shares	25	\$38, buyers
Bell's Asbestos E. A.	12a. 6d.	\$7, sellers
China-Borneo Co.	\$12	\$10, sellers
China Light & P. Co.	\$10	\$9, sales & sellers
China Provident	\$10	\$9.30, buyers
Cotton Mills—		
Ewo	Tls. 50	Tls. 47, buyers
Hongkong	\$10	\$12 1/2, buyers
International	Tls. 75	Tls. 40
Loan Kung Mow	Tls. 100	Tls. 60
Soychee	Tls. 600	Tls. 250
Dairy Farm		
	\$6	\$15 1/2, buyers
Docks & Wharves—		
Farnham, B. & Co.	Tls. 100	Tls. 128, sales
H. & K. Wharf & G.	\$50	\$108, sales
H. & W. Dock	\$50	\$165, sellers
New Amoy Dock	\$6 1/2	\$17
Shanghai & H. Wharf	Tls. 100	Tls. 230, sellers
Fenwick & Co., Geo.		
	\$25	\$25
		\$24 1/2
G. Island Cement		
	\$10	\$29, sellers
Hongkong & C. Gas		
	\$10	\$175, buyers
Hongkong Electric	\$10	\$15 1/2, buyers
Do. New	\$10	\$14 1/2, buyers
H. H. L. Tramways	\$100	\$210
Hongkong Hotel Co.	\$50	\$149, buyers
Hongkong Ice Co.	\$25	\$240, buyers
Hongkong Rope Co.	\$50	\$152
H'kong S. Waterboat	\$10	\$12 1/2, sellers
Insurances—		
Canton	\$50	\$820, sales
China Fire	\$20	\$89, sellers
China Traders	\$25	\$91, buyers
Hongkong Fire	\$50	\$325, sellers
North China	25	Tls. 95
Union	\$100	\$730
Yangtsze	\$60	\$170
Land and Buildings—		
H'kong Land Invest.	\$100	\$125, sellers
Humphreys' Estate	\$10	\$12 1/2, sales & sel.
Kowloon Land & B.	\$30	\$40 1/2, sales
Shanghai Land	Tls. 50	Tls. 120
West Point Building	\$50	\$55, sellers
Mining—		
Charbonnages	Fcs. 250	\$490
Raubs	18/10	\$4 1/2, sellers
Philippine Co.		
	\$10	\$5, buyers
Refineries—		
China Sugar	\$100	\$207 1/2
Luzon Sugar	\$100	\$25, sellers
Steamship Companies		
China and Manila	\$25	\$19, buyers
Douglas Steamship	\$50	\$40
H., Canton & M.	\$15	\$25 1/2, buyers
Indo-China S. N. Co.	\$10	\$94, buyers
Shell Transport Co.	\$1	23/-, sellers
Do. Preference	\$10	28. 10s.
Star Ferry	\$10	\$32
Do. New	\$5	\$23, sellers
Shanghai & H. Dyeing		
	\$5	\$50
South China M. Post.	\$25	\$20, sellers
Steam Laund. Co.	\$5	\$7, sellers
Do.	\$5	\$6 1/2, sales & sel.
Stores & Dispensaries.		
Campbell, M. & Co.	\$10	\$36
Powell & Co., Wm.	\$10	\$10 1/2
Watkins	\$10	\$6 sellers
Watson & Co., A. S.	\$10	\$13, sales & buy.
United Asbestos		
	\$4	\$9
Do. Founders	\$10	\$160

Messrs. J. P. Bisset & Co.'s Share Report for the week ending the 11th January, 1906, states:—

This is our first circular this year. The reason there was no issue last week was on account of the December settlement and the New Year holidays, during which no business was reported. Since the opening of the market on the 3rd inst. only a small business has been reported, and this principally was in Wharves, Farnhams and Indos. Our market continues very firm and the above stocks, including Langkats, are in demand. This is not a little surprising, as we are just on the eve of the Chinese New Year. Unlike this period, generally, money is easy, with little demand for it, even amongst natives. The T. T. rate on London to-day is 2/10 1/2. Banks.—No business reported, the latest quotation from Hongkong is \$895 and the London rate £94.0.0. Marine and Fire Insurance.—No business reported. Chinas are wanted at \$90 and Hongkong Fires at \$330 nominal. North Chinas have been placed at Tls. 95. Shipping.—Indos are much stronger. Business was done on the 6th for cash and January delivery at Tls. 66, February Tls. 67, March Tls. 68 and later for March at Tls. 69 and Tls. 69 1/2. The market closes with sellers at March rate. Shanghai Tugs, Ordinary, have been placed at Tls. 57 and Preference at Tls. 48 1/2. Docks and Wharves.—Farnhams. The market opened on the 5th with sales at Tls. 121. On the 8th, March shares were placed at Tls. 122 1/2 ex the interim dividend paid by the Company on the 6th inst. of Tls. 4. On the 9th, cash shares were placed at Tls. 119 and March at Tls. 125 and Tls. 124, on the 10th at Tls. 121 cash. The Company issued a circular regarding an extraordinary meeting called for by 10 shareholders. The purpose of the meeting is to consider the construction of the Company. Full particulars of this notice appeared in the "North China Daily News" of the 8th inst. Shanghai and Hongkew Wharves. Business has been done in these for cash at Tls. 225 and Tls. 230, and for March Tls. 235, Tls. 232 1/2, Tls. 235, Tls. 240, Tls. 242 1/2, and Tls. 235, the market closing with buyers and sellers at Tls. 230 for cash and Tls. 235 for March. Yangtsze Wharves are in demand, and no shares offering. Sugars.—No business reported. Peraks are wanted at present rates. Mining.—No business reported. Lands.—No business reported. Industrial.—In Cotton stocks a transaction is reported in Ewos at Tls. 46 for February delivery and in Loankung-mows at Tls. 54 for cash. Gas Shares have been placed at Tls. 128. Langkats. Business has been done for March delivery at Tls. 222 1/2, Tls. 225, and Tls. 232 1/2. The market closes with buyers for March at 232 1/2 and sellers Tls. 235, and for cash Tls. 217 1/2 buyers. Stores and Hotels.—Lane, Crawfords have been placed at \$145 and Astor House at \$27. Miscellaneous.—Telephones have been placed at Tls. 54. Loans and Debentures.—E loan bond has been placed at Tls. 250.00 Shanghai Land 6 per cent. debentures at Tls. 96.

FREIGHT

Messrs. Arnhold, Karberg & Co.'s Fortnightly Produce Circular, dated Shanghai, 8th January, 1906, states:—Gallnuts.—There has been a good enquiry, especially for usual Galls and a fair business has to be recorded. Supplies of plum-shaped remain scarce and prices are consequently rather high. Still, there is a certain demand for this quality and several lots have been taken out of the market. Cowhides.—Dealers have been able to exact higher prices again. It would almost seem as if the top has not been reached yet, as there is a keen demand of which the Chinese naturally take the fullest advantage, and perhaps prices will be paid which nobody ever thought possible before. Tobacco.—Nothing doing. Feathers.—We have to report a dull market.—Cotton.—Last week witnessed a sharp rise in value of Hankow Cotton caused through extensive purchases made by Japanese. Unfortunately prices in Europe are lower and export business has therefore come to a standstill for the time being. Tallow.—White Vegetable. Tallow has been in good demand and further quantities could be placed if dealers would not raise their demands. Straw-braid.—Coarse mottled braids, Loyeh and Split, remain in good demand little business has been done as this market is short of stocks. A fair business has done in the Northern ports. Goatskin Rugs.—The brisk demand remains unabated, and every desirable parcel coming to this market is at once snapped up. Wood.—All descriptions are eagerly enquired for but, supplies remain limited.

VERNON & SMYTH, Broker.

SHIPPING

ARRIVALS AND DEPARTURES SINCE LAST MAIL.

January—ARRIVALS.

12, Rajaburi, German str., from Bangkok.
 13, Andromeda, British str., from Shanghai.
 13, Decima, German str., from Swatow.
 13, Frithjof, Norwegian str., from Anping.
 13, Holstein, German str., from Hoihow.
 13, Knivsberg, German str., from Shanghai.
 13, Laertes, British str., from Saigon.
 13, Shaohsing, British str., from Shanghai.
 13, Spezia, German str., from Hamburg.
 13, Tingsang, British str., from Wuhu.
 14, Chowtai, German str., from Bangkok.
 14, Doris, Norwegian str., from Canton.
 14, Glenfalloch, British str., from Singapore.
 14, Hellas, German str., from Canton.
 14, Hongkong, French str., from Haiphong.
 14, Panther, Austrian cruiser, from Canton.
 14, Prinz Sigismund, Ger. str., from Sydney.
 14, Quarta, German str., from Wakamatsu.
 14, Rajaburi, German str., from Bangkok.
 14, Taisang, British str., from Canton.
 15, Andalusia, German str., from Vostock.
 15, Chingtu, British str., from Yokohama.
 15, Gneisenau, German str., from Shanghai.
 15, Haiching, British str., from Coast Ports.
 15, J. Diederichsen, Ger. str., from Hoihow.
 15, Johanne, German str., from Singapore.
 15, Kwanglee, Chinese str., from Shanghai.
 15, Numantia, German str., from Moji.
 15, Waihora, British str., from Hoihow.
 15, Yuensang, British str., from Manila.
 16, Andree Rickmers, Ger. str., from Bangkok.
 16, Benlarig, British str., from London.
 16, Boverio, British str., from Newcastle.
 16, Brand, Norwegian str., from Canton.
 16, Fooshing, British str., from Canton.
 16, Glenstrae, British str., from London.
 16, Glenturret, British str., from Shanghai.
 16, Hue, French str., from Haiphong.
 16, Hydra, British str., from Moji.
 16, Idomenus, British str., from Japan.
 16, Kampot, Fr. str., from Kwangchauwan.
 16, Kwongsang, British str., from Canton.
 16, Palawan, British str., from Yokohama.
 16, Rubi, British str., from Manila.
 16, Samsen, German str., from Bangkok.
 16, Sungkiang, British str., from Cebu.
 16, Trave, German str., from Vladivostok.
 17, Cambyes, British str., from Moji.
 17, Daigi Maru, Japanese str., from Tamsui.
 17, Emprs. of India, British str., from Vancouver.
 17, Erroll, British str., from Liverpool.
 17, Ningpo, British str., from Canton.
 17, Rajah, German str., from Bangkok.
 17, Sambia, German str., from Hamburg.
 17, Szechuen, British str., from Iloilo.
 18, Amiral Magon, French str., from Havre.
 18, Cachar, British str., from Saigon.
 18, Gulf of Venice, British str., from Australia.
 18, Hailan, French str., from Pakhoi.
 18, Hanoi, French str., from Haiphong.
 18, Hopsang, British str., from Wuhu.
 18, Hudson, British str., from Shanghai.
 18, Lightning, British str., from Calcutta.
 18, Luchs, German gunboat, from Haiphong.
 18, Manchuria, Amr. str., from S. Francisco.
 18, Pakling, British str., from Shanghai.
 18, Pekin, British str., from London.
 18, Shaohsing, British str., from Canton.
 18, Wingsang, British str., from Wulu.
 19, Amigo, German str., from Haiphong.
 19, Ningchow, British str., from Liverpool.
 19, Preussen, German str., from Hamburg.
 19, Taming, British str., from Manila.
 19, Wongkoi, German str., from Bangkok.
 20, Ceylon, British str., from London.
 20, Chowfa, German str., from Bangkok.
 20, Fooksang, British str., from Calcutta.
 20, Hongbee, British str., from Straits.
 20, Kwanglee Chinese str., from Canton.
 20, Kwangtah, Chinese str., from Shanghai.
 20, Tingsang, British str., from Canton.
 21, Ambria, German str., from Shanghai.
 21, Anping Maru, Jap. str., from Shanghai.
 21, Choysang, British str., from Shanghai.
 21, Empire, British str., from Kobe.
 21, Haimun, British str., from Coast Ports.
 21, Hongkong Maru, Jap. str., from Ykama.
 21, Kensington, British str., from Salina Cruz.
 21, Yochow, British str., from Shanghai.

January—DEPARTURES.

12, Arcadia, British str., for Shanghai.
 12, Atholl, British str., for New York.

12, Calliope, British str., for Singapore.
 12, Haimun, British str., for Coast Ports.
 12, Ischia, Italian str., for Bombay.
 12, Kashing, British str., for Shanghai.
 12, Kowloon, German str., for Kobe.
 12, Loongsang, British str., for Manila.
 12, Loosok, German str., for Bangkok.
 12, Nippon Maru, Jap. str., for San Francisco.
 12, Saint Bede, British str., for Shanghai.
 13, Anping, Chinese str., for Shanghai.
 13, Apenrade, German str., for Saigon.
 13, Athens, British str., for Kobe.
 13, Delta, British str., for Europe.
 13, Devawongse, German str., for Swatow.
 13, Franklyn, British str., for Newcastle.
 13, Mannigtry, British str., for Rangoon.
 13, Reigate, British str., for Sabang.
 13, Zafiro, British str., for Manila.
 14, Antenor, British str., for Shanghai.
 14, Chunsang, British str., for Kobe.
 14, Daijin Maru, Japanese str., for Tamsui.
 14, Hikosan Maru, Jap. str., for Ocean Isld.
 14, Palamcotta, British str., for Rangoon.
 14, Telemachus, British str., for Saigon.
 14, Tin song, British str., for Canton.
 15, Alacritty, British des. str., for Saigon.
 15, Andalusia, German str., for Singapore.
 15, Aithness, British str., for Newcastle.
 15, Lisa, Swedish str., for Port Vallut.
 15, Lyeemoon, German str., for Shanghai.
 15, Shaohsing, British str., for Canton.
 15, Spezia, German str., for Yokohama.
 15, Thyra, Norwegian str., for Kuchinotzu.
 15, Tjimahi, Dutch str., for Macassar.
 15, Wakamatsu Maru, Jap. str., for Moji.
 16, Amoy, German str., for Shanghai.
 16, Chingtu, British str., for Australia.
 16, Decima, German str., for Anping.
 16, Elita Nossack, German str., for Ningpo.
 16, Fansang, British str., for Samarang.
 16, Hongkong French str., for Haiphong.
 16, Kutsang, British str., Calcutta.
 16, Prinz Sigismund, Ger. str., for Yokohama.
 16, Promise, Norwegian str., for Ocean Isld.
 16, Sirocco, British str., for Bangkok.
 16, Taisang, British str., for Shanghai.
 16, Tean, British str., for Manila.
 16, Trave, German str., for Odessa.
 16, Waihora, British str., for Straits.
 17, Dakotah, British str., for Kobe.
 17, Doris, Norwegian str., for Bangkok.
 17, Glenturret, British str., for Singapore.
 17, Gneisenau, German str., for Europe.
 17, Haiching, British str., for Coast Ports.
 17, Holstein, German str., for Hoihow.
 17, J. Diederichsen, German str., for Hoihow.
 17, Kampot, French str., for Kwangchauwan.
 17, Kwanglee, Chinese str., for Canton.
 17, Loyal, German str., for Bangkok.
 17, Mercedes, British str., for Saigon.
 17, Paklat, German str., for Bangkok.
 17, Taiwan, British str., for Saigon.
 17, Tjiliwong, Dutch str., for Shanghai.
 18, Benlarig, British str., for Nagasaki.
 18, Erroll, British str., for Shanghai.
 18, Fooshing, British str., for Shanghai.
 18, Glenstrae, British str., for Shanghai.
 18, Glenfalloch, British str., for Singapore.
 18, Hellas, German str., for Singapore.
 18, Idomenus, British str., for London.
 18, Kwongsang, British str., for Swatow.
 18, Ningpo, British str., for Ningpo.
 18, Palawan, British str., for London.
 19, Chowtai, German str., for Bangkok.
 19, Coningsby, British str., for Sourabaya.
 19, Doris, British str., for San Francisco.
 19, Hopsang, British str., for Canton.
 19, Hue, French str., for Haiphong.
 19, Rajaburi, German str., for Bangkok.
 19, Rubi, British str., for Manila.
 19, Wingsang, British str., for Canton.
 19, Yuensang, British str., for Manila.
 20, Hailan, French str., for Pakhoi.
 20, Haitan, British str., for Coast Ports.
 20, Hudson, British str., for Singapore.
 20, Mansang, British str., for Sandakan.
 20, Preussen, German str., for Shanghai.
 20, Pakling, British str., for London.
 20, Pekin, British str., for Kobe.
 20, Perlak, British str., for Palambang.
 20, Rajah, German str., for Yokohama.
 20, Sambia, German str., for Shanghai.
 20, Shaohsing, British str., for Shanghai.
 20, Szechuan, British str., for Kobe.
 21, A. Rickmers, German str., for Bangkok.
 21, Brand, Norwegian str., for Chinkiang.
 21, Daigi Maru, Japanese str., for Tamsui.
 21, Hanoi, French str., for Haiphong.

21, Johanne, German str., for Haiphong.
 21, Kwanglee, Chinese str., for Shanghai.
 21, Kwangtah, Chinese str., for Canton.
 21, Quito, British str., for Cebu.
 21, Samsen, German str., for Bangkok.

PASSENGER LIST.

ARRIVED.

Per Delta, from Shanghai for Hongkong, Messrs. Smith, Cummings, Mr. and Mrs. Brandais, Mrs. A. Presby, Dr. Karminski, Mrs. Allen, Mr. T. Yokorama, Mr. and Mrs. Haesloop, Miss Dawson, Messrs. F. Lapan, A. N. Ebrahim, C. T. Allen, H. J. Houpe, W. Erhardt, Mr. and Mrs. Katz, Mr. Lennox, Mr. and Mrs. Grinderson, Mr. F. W. Newman, for Colombo, Mr. and Mrs. Zeigler, Dr. J. A. Adamson, Mr. Hy. Dubs, for Calcutta, Mr. C. F. Bennett, for Bombay, Mr. S. Morita, Mrs. F. Schmidt and 2 children, for Marseilles, Mr. J. Welch, Capt. Toke, Mr. W. G. Reddick, Mrs. F. J. Abbott and child, Mr. F. A. Sanderson, for London, Mr. J. Forster, Mr. and Mrs. Hardy and two children, Mr. W. Holmes.

Per Gneisenau, for Hongkong from Kobe, Messrs. W. Muller, G. v. d. Hellen, J. G. Hetherington, Dr. A. A. Bolton, Mr. K. Honuna, Mrs. Shima Kobayashi, from Nagasaki, Mr. and Mrs. S. M. Gidley, Mr. J. Okomoto, from Shanghai, Messrs. G. U. M. Anderson, Phil Arnold, G. Kaimati, Mrs. H. C. Guedes, Messrs. M. H. Michael, J. W. Bashford, Miss M. C. Moffatt, Messrs. J. W. Bolles, Diouer, Schuwloff, Miss Jutta Stagemann, Mr., Mrs. and Miss L. M. Marques, Miss Crusius, Mr. J. Kuta.

Per Manchuria, from San Francisco, &c., Mr. Geo. E. Anderson, Mr. and Mrs. Geo. W. Armsby, Mr. J. Abellini, Mrs. C. B. Brigham, Miss K. Brigham, Mr. and Mrs. W. J. Buchan, Messrs. Claude Z. Brand, K. Beebe, T. W. Barnes, Mr. and Mrs. L. M. Cohn, Mr. J. L. Connor, Miss Curtis, Miss E. Curtis, Mr. H. H. Dearborn, Miss Anna Erickson, Mr. E. J. Finlanson, Mrs. A. Forest, Mrs. L. M. Gray and 2 children, Miss H. K. Hadstrom, Messrs. H. N. E. Jacobne, Benno Lipke, Mr. and Mrs. F. O. Leiser, Col. M. P. Maus, U.S.N., Mr. and Mrs. W. H. Milne, Mr. and Mrs. Thos. Power, Mr. and Mrs. J. S. Parker, Admiral T. Stevens, Mrs. C. J. Swan, Mr. and Mrs. Geo. W. Tourtellot, Mr. Geo. U. Wegman, Miss L. E. Wendall and Mr. S. S. Young.

Per Empress of India, for Hongkong, from Yokohama, Lt. A. B. Low, R.N., Mr. O. T. Tuck, from Shanghai, Mr. A. D. Fosset and Miss M. McLeod.

Per Preussen, from Hamburg, &c., Mr. Kilian, Mr. and Mrs. Engel, Messrs. v. d. Wende, A. F. C. Hart, Watson, Dr. Robt. Nielderhofheim, Miss G. Alcock, Mr. and Mrs. C. W. Brett, Messrs. D. Gane, C. C. Hill, N. H. Martin, F. Miller, Solomon and family.

DEPARTED.

Per Nippon Maru, for China and Japan ports Mr. and Mrs. Mason Mitchell, Messrs. E. L. Kempton, U.S.N., W. C. T. S. Filmer, H. Blum, M. Ruytirs, Mr. and Mrs. M. Abramovits, Mr. M. Sahara, Mr. and Mrs. J. H. Hemperly, Mr. Walter Ross, for San Francisco, &c., Messrs. Henry Linn, B. Baxter, Com. J. H. Roebacher, U.S.N., Messrs. J. A. Macanlay, M. H. Sakul, E. R. Hazard, E. F. Williams, A. K. Risser, Rear-Admiral G. O. Reiter, U.S.N., Lient. J. R. Y. Blakely, U.S.N., Miss Mary Fox, Messrs. Edw. Thomas, R. Ross and A. E. Goldstein.

Per Della, from Hongkong for Singapore, Mr. and Mrs. R. W. Bothwick, Miss O. Jim, Miss S. Chooneo, Mr. W. V. Robinson, for Penang, Rev. A. E. Smith, for Colombo, Mr. G. E. Morrell, for Bombay, Messrs. J. E. MacLellan and A. N. Ebrahim, for Brindisi, Mrs. Rogers, Mrs. Sturtevant, Messrs. R. Weidensall, Chas. J. Chapman, Lawrence T. Darr, for Marseilles, Mr. and Mrs. P. B. Fraser, for London, Mr. and Mrs. E. M. Dunbar, Miss A. L. Dunbar, Mrs. and 2 Misses Colbe, Miss Baker, Messrs. T. L. and H. L. Bogert.

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